

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLI.]

HONGKONG: THURSDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 1895.

No. 3

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BIRTH.

On the 12th inst., at 8, Stewart Terrace, the wife of H. B. LETHBRIDGE, of a daughter. [168]

MARRIAGES.

On the 9th January, at St. Joseph's Church and at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, Surgeon MATTHEW O'BRIEN, Royal Navy, son of the late Thos. O'Regan, Esq., of Ballytrasna, Middle, Co. Cork, to LILY, eldest daughter of HENRY J. HOLMES, Solicitor, Hongkong. [145]

On the 10th January, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Right Reverend Bishop Burdon, D.D., assisted by the Rev. E. F. Cobbold, M.A., CHARLES WEDDERBURN DICKSON, elder son of the late W. E. G. C. Dickson, M.D. Edinburgh, to FRANCES EMMELINE, youngest daughter of the late Sir HARRY PARKES, formerly British Minister at Tokyo and Peking. [146]

At the Union Church, on Friday, 11th January, WILLIAM PORTEOUS DEAS, youngest son of J. S. Deas, Esq., of Greenock, to MARGARET, second daughter of Thos. PARK, Esq., of Leeds. [158]

DEATH.

At Shanghai, on the 5th January, HENRY B. ENDICOTT, aged 51 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 7th December arrived, per M. M. steamer *Melbourne*, on the 11th January (35 days); and the English mail of the 14th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, on the 11th January (28 days).

The rates of subscription to the *Hongkong Weekly Press* are \$12 yearly, \$7 half-yearly, and \$4 quarterly, payable in advance; the credit rates are \$13.50, \$8, and \$4.50 respectively. Postage \$2 per annum additional.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The King of Korea formally declared the independence of his kingdom on the 7th inst.

In the Supreme Court of Hongkong on the 9th inst., two men who were concerned in the recent armed raid in Winglok Street were sentenced to death for the murder of a Sikh constable and a Chinese passer-by.

Further correspondence has taken place between the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce and the Government with reference to the exemption of mail steamers from the operation of the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance, the Chamber still pressing the point that it is inequitable to grant privileges to subsidised steamers which are denied to non-subsidised steamers.

Several transports left Ujina on the 8th inst. with a portion of the Japanese Third Army Corps, and it is expected that the whole corps will shortly be despatched, with the object, it is believed, of taking Wei-hai-wei. In the meantime the Second Army is steadily advancing on Kinchow and the Chinese are retiring to the Great Wall. On the 8th inst. Haiphong was captured, the Chinese taking to flight after losing 200 killed.

At a meeting of the Shanghai shareholders in the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, held on the 8th inst., a resolution was passed in favour of winding up the Company, it being understood that an offer to purchase the business had been made by the Commercial Union Insurance Co. at \$25 per share. The directors of the Company at Singapore have issued a circular in which they intimate their opposition to the movement.

Surgeon-Major Westcott, who went to Tung Kan on behalf of the Hongkong Government to investigate the reported existence of plague in that district, reports that there were sporadic cases of the disease during November and part of December, that no cases had been found during the last fortnight, and that it is evident the poison lingers in the district, but whether it will again cause an epidemic will depend on the sanitary surroundings and climatic conditions which it will encounter.

M. de Lanessan, Governor-General of French Indo-China, has been recalled for having communicated to third parties state documents which it is said ought only to have been sent to the Government. It appears M. de Lanessan had sent to M. Canivet copies of certain of his reports. M. Canivet, it will be remembered, was afterwards implicated in the Paris blackmailing scandal, and on searching his papers the reports by M. de Lanessan were found. Great dissatisfaction with the recall is expressed in Tonkin and it is supposed that advantage has been taken by M. de Lanessan's political opponents of a technical breach of confidence to try to ruin his career.

The annual meeting of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, was held on the 14th inst. From the report it appeared that during the year 9,874 tons of ore had been mined and milled yielding 5,488 ounces of gold. The accounts showed a profit of about \$47,000, but this had all been written off and spent on capital account in the introduction of the cyanide process and the development of the mine. At the meeting dissatisfaction was expressed at the form in which the accounts were presented and the introduction of the cyanide process without reference to the shareholders, and after some discussion a vote of want of confidence in the chairman and directors was passed and the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was negatived. A poll was demanded and will be taken on Monday next.

M. de Lanessan left Haiphong on the 7th inst. for Saigon, where he intended to join the homeward bound French mail steamer.

President Cleveland has proclaimed the coming into force of the new Chinese Immigration Treaty. The final ratifications were exchanged on 7th December between Mr. Gresham and the Chinese Minister.

An Imperial edict has been issued, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, conferring the Grand Cross of the Order of the Double Dragon on all the Foreign Ministers who had audience with the Emperor on the 12th of November last.

It is stated, says the *China Gazette*, that a syndicate, headed by Li Hung-chang and including the leading mandarins all over the Empire, is working for the purpose of forming a national bank at Shanghai. The institution is to be called the Imperial Bank of China, and its capital is to be sixty million taels, a large portion of which is already promised. It is to be run on the lines of the leading banking houses in Japan, and a large staff of foreign managers and clerks is to be engaged.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Ice Co. was held on the 7th inst. The report stated that the year's working showed the satisfactory net profit of Tls. 9,589, out of which it was proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. amounting to Tls. 4,320, place to reserve fund the sum of Tls. 600, write off plant account for sundry repairs, etc., Tls. 1,343, and carry the balance of Tls. 3,325 to depreciation account. The Chairman, Mr. Rehders, said he thought the report and accounts would be accepted as satisfactory, and the success was largely owing to the mild winter last year. The company was able to distribute twelve per cent. and also to carry forward a handsome amount. The new plant would arrive in March and would be erected in time for the warm season. One good point in the new machinery would be that it would supply perfectly clear ice without the milky appearance assumed by the present ice after storage. The report and accounts were adopted.

We take the following from the *N. C. Daily News*:—"It is very well known that Japan undertook to respect the neutrality of Shanghai and to consider that this region was without the sphere of warlike operations. An agreement to this effect was concluded between Japan and Great Britain, but for some reason or another the British Government has suspected that Japan might be tempted to ignore or fail to carry out in its integrity the agreement made, so that imperative orders have been sent to Admiral Fremantle to protest in case of need against any attempted infraction of the agreement made or, if compelled, to use what means he deems necessary to ensure the proper observance of the same. As yet Japan has shown no desire to interrupt the harmony of our present existence, nor is it likely that she will ever make the attempt, still it is satisfactory to know that the British Government keeps a watchful eye on the trade of this part of the Chinese empire, and is ready to protect it to the last." We have reason to believe that the instructions here referred to were given to the Admiral at the very commencement of the imbroglio, and are not, as the remarks of our contemporary would seem to imply, something new. The Admiral was informed in ordinary course of the agreement arrived at and the responsibility of seeing that it was carried out was placed upon him.

THE UNOFFICIAL ELEMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

An article in the *V. C. Daily News* dealing with Hongkong affairs, and more particularly the plague and the Insanitary Dwellings Bill, concludes as follows:—"The opposition will be brushed aside by a compact Government majority and the Bill will shortly pass into law. So far good. But he would be a shallow observer who would say that therefore obstruction does not matter. A wider issue is being raised by the opposition than they themselves seem to be aware of in the spectacle of a Legislative Assembly where the Government is found engaged in a struggle for the public weal against the public representatives themselves. We are forced, not for the first time, to ask whether representative government in Hongkong has not been made a failure and a sham by the unworthy tactics of men who seek their own ends, thrusting better men out of their places, and robbing the word 'Honourable,' as applied to political life, of half its significance. People are being led to seriously ask themselves if it would not be better to do away with it altogether, if the affairs of the colony would not be better administered under a strong Governor with Downing Street behind him as a court of appeal. And in the present state of affairs in Hongkong we think they would." The conclusion is absurd. Any Governor who attempted to administer Hongkong without the benefit of unofficial advice would find the task extremely difficult and irksome, and the result to the community would be disastrous. A Governor comes here ignorant of all local conditions and by the time he has made himself acquainted with the colony and its requirements his term of office has expired and he is succeeded by another. It may be said that he would have his officials to look to for advice and assistance, but the officials are apt to regard all questions presented to them from a purely official point of view and to consider the colony as made for the officials rather than the officials for the colony. But even giving the officials credit for the most complete disinterestedness, what opportunities have they for making themselves acquainted with the real requirements of the place, more especially those relating to trade and commerce? How the idea of doing away with the unofficial element in the Legislative Council could enter the head of any sane man we cannot imagine. It is true the recent action of the unofficials, more particularly in connection with the estimates and the Insanitary Dwellings Bill, was mysterious and regrettable, but a system is not to be condemned for a single breakdown. And even in connection with the Insanitary Dwellings Bill, although the hon. members did not represent the wishes of the community in that matter, it may nevertheless be conceded that it was an advantage that the Bill should be subjected to hostile criticism, in order that it should be passed as free from flaw as it could be made.

The weak point about the unofficial element in Hongkong is that it is not sufficiently representative. What measure of representation we have is better than none at all, but it is altogether inadequate. The system of nomination results, not in representation of all interests, but in the representation of special interests. Shanghai is admirably governed under the representative system and we should have thought the *Daily News* would have been amongst the last to hold up bureaucratic government as superior to the system under which the Model Settlement has flourished so

exceedingly. Let the unofficial representatives in Hongkong be as directly responsible to the ratepayers as the members of the Municipal Council are in Shanghai and it would be found they would work with the same zeal for the good of the community. What we really want in Hongkong is a Municipal Council, with which the Sanitary Board would naturally be amalgamated. Such a Council, entirely free from the official element in its membership, would be able to conduct the local affairs of the colony in an entirely satisfactory manner, and we would no longer have occasion to regard with envy the condition of the Model Settlement. The Legislative Council, which would still be required for the making of laws outside ordinary municipal regulations, should also be reformed in the sense of making it a more representative body. It might be suggested also that it would be well if the Governor could have the benefit of unofficial advice in the Executive Council, were it not for the fact that we have in the colony no men suitable for such a position who are not directly engaged in business, and being engaged in business they would always be liable to a suspicion of using the information and the influence the position gave them for their personal benefit and to the detriment of trade rivals. Under the peculiar circumstances of the colony it is better that whatever advice the unofficials have to offer to the Governor should be offered in public. A departure was made from that rule in the recent secret meetings of the Legislative Council, and the result has been such as we should think is not likely to encourage any repetition of the experiment.

THE POSITION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

In the last issue of *Truth*, Mr. HENRY LABOUCHERE, referring to the Chino-Japanese war, says:—"My own sympathies are entirely with the Japanese, and so, I think, are those of most Englishmen. The Chinese Empire is rotten to the core. Its Government is detestable. Its huge provinces hang loosely together. All commerce is impeded by internal transit duties being levied every few miles. Nothing, in the interests of the world and of the Chinese themselves, would be more desirable than that there should be a revolution, which would send the Celestial Emperor and his crew of insolent and corrupt mandarins packing. Japan will naturally exact a war indemnity, and, as did Germany in the Franco-German War, secure to herself some guarantees of future peace. She should, moreover, insist that China be thrown open to all nations, and that foreign goods, once having paid dues at the port of entry, should circulate freely throughout the Empire." It is not often that we can agree with Mr. LABOUCHERE, but there is a good deal of common-sense in the above remarks if rather roughly expressed, and they pretty fairly indicate the state of public opinion in England at the present moment. The *Saturday Review*, which represents the other extreme of political opinion, holds practically the same views as *Truth* on this question, and in an article on the situation in the Far East, says that there is a prevalent belief that Japan, not satisfied with a scheme for the reform of Korea, is also desirous of so far civilising China as at least to open up the country to foreign trade and residence. The *Review*, while sympathising with the idea, thinks that any reform in China to meet with real success will have to be drastic. The Government cannot be handled with kid gloves. Our London contemporary

evidently most fully appreciates the extent of the hold corruption has gained on the entire official class, for it emphatically declares that reform can only come from without. That is our conviction. No single high official or even a set of officials, nor even a reforming Emperor, can unaided cleanse the Augean stable of Chinese corruption. Some temporary improvement might possibly be effected by a vigorous Imperial Edict pushed by zealous reformers into practice, but it would soon be followed by a relapse, and it is quite possible the latter state of the mandarin state would be worse than the first and end in final disruption and anarchy. Nothing would work so potently for the well-being of the Chinese people as the overthrow of the present unwieldy Empire and its division into three or four kingdoms, under the tutelage, possibly under the administration, of some of the Western Powers. We fear this is a mere dream at present, though it must come to that or something like it in the end, for mutual jealousies will probably prevent any combined action on the part of the leading Treaty Powers.

At the moment the prospects of any overthrow of the existing Government at Peking seem to sanguine minds more remote than was the case before the fall of Port Arthur. We say "seem" because we are not inclined to believe that there is really any alteration in the position. Many persons are of opinion that the Chinese Government desire peace and that the Japanese Government are not unwilling to make terms; and great expectations are based on the forthcoming negotiations at Tokyo. We warn our readers not to be too sanguine as to the result of the Embassy about to be despatched to Japan. In the first place it is by no means certain that the Peking Government are really anxious to make peace. It is far more likely that they only desire time in which they hope Japanese efforts may relax in their activity. The Chinese conceit is limitless, and the mandarins fully believe that given time to make good their losses, they would soon be in as good a position as the Japanese and better able to sustain the cost of lengthened hostilities. The Japanese Government understand the character of their opponents, and distrust them profoundly. They could not, as a matter of course, refuse to discuss any offer for a settlement laid before them by duly appointed and suitable representatives of the Chinese Government, but they will not, we imagine, for one moment relax their efforts for the successful prosecution of the war. The fact that a Third Army Corps is about to embark at Hiroshima for some destination in China is sufficient proof that the Japanese are far from convinced of the probability of any early cessation of hostilities. The war will proceed, and its incidents may march more rapidly than the peace negotiations. That indeed is our expectation. Another matter not taken into consideration is the contingency that the Ambassadors appointed may not prove acceptable to the Tokyo Government. CHANG HING-HUAN, who was formerly Minister to the United States, is not a mandarin of the first rank, and may not be regarded as sufficiently representative, while SHAO, Governor of Hunan, is hardly likely to prove a *persona grata* in Japan, if, as we understand, he is the official who first offered rewards for Japanese heads, an act which very rightly excited a storm of indignation in Tokyo. Assuming, however, that any difficulty as to the personnel of the Embassy will be waived, the negotiations are certain to make tardy progress, and before any conclusion can be arrived at it is not improbable Peking will be in the hands of

the Japanese Commander-in-chief and the Emperor KWANG SU a prisoner of war. Very slow progress has, to all appearance, been made by the Japanese since the capture of Port Arthur, but it is only fair to assume that offensive operations will be vigorously resumed, so far at least as the rigours of the winter will permit. In any case, we would like to impress upon lookers-on the importance of not too hastily rushing to the conclusion that the war is practically over.

THE EXEMPTION OF MAIL STEAMERS FROM THE SUNDAY CARGO WORKING ORDINANCE.

The correspondence between the Chamber of Commerce and the Government with reference to the exemption of mail steamers from the operation of the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance brings into prominence the perversity of the home authorities in encouraging foreign trade at the expense of British. The matter recalls a somewhat similar controversy, which took place some years ago. At that time the German regulations governing the carrying of emigrants from Chinese ports allowed a larger number of passengers to be carried than the British, and as the Straits Government, under instructions from home, we believe, recognised the German regulations, the result was that the conveyance of emigrants from Swatow to Singapore was being monopolised by German steamers. British shipowners naturally felt aggrieved and made representations on the subject to their Government, but it was only after a long and severe fight that they secured recognition of the principle that all vessels should be treated alike and no preference given to the foreigner. The principle having been recognised, however, legislation was at length passed by the Straits Government subjecting all vessels entering the ports of that colony to the same regulations. The question now raised is similar in principle, though the interests involved are of less magnitude. A British non-subsidised steamer and a foreign steamer enjoying the advantage of a subsidy from its own Government arrive at Hongkong on Saturday or Sunday and intend to continue their voyage to Shanghai; it has been decided that the foreigner, already enjoying an advantage over his British competitor in the shape of a subsidy, is to be further advantaged by being allowed to work cargo on the Sunday without payment of a fee, while the Britisher has either to pay a fee or submit to a day's delay. The Chamber does not ask that any further exemptions should be made from the provisions of the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance, but that the provisions of the Ordinance should be enforced without favour against all vessels. The reasonableness of the request is patent. The Committee of the Chamber in their letter of the 20th August last point out that the subsidised lines compete keenly for cargo and passengers with the non-subsidised or cargo steamers, of which there are some seven regular lines using this port en route to and from Great Britain and Europe, and that the non-subsidised steamers are further disadvantaged as against the mail lines by being obliged to incur the fees imposed under the various enactments which prevent their working on Sundays, or they are compelled to prolong their voyage by lying idle in port while their competitors work on Sundays, thus causing a natural preference to be shown by shippers and passengers for the speedier services. In their second letter dated the 5th inst. they urge that the fact that foreign mail steamers were under time contracts when the Sunday Labour Ordinance was passed presents no sufficient reason for their exemption;

that in regulating more important Imperial considerations which may affect foreign countries, for instance the imposition of Customs duties, it is not usual to take into consideration how the impost will affect the position of the subjects of these countries; and that if in such major matters no difference is permitted none should be shown in lesser regulations such as this local Ordinance provides, especially when it is demonstrated that the concession works unfairly against British commerce. The arguments are sound. The Chamber might have gone further and urged that if the subsidised steamers stand in need of relief they should look for it to their own Governments, and not have it granted at the expense of the private shipowner who has to work without the advantage of a subsidy. If a mail steamer by being delayed in Hongkong over Sunday was a day late in completing her voyage application might be made by her owners to their own Government for remission of the usual penalty for delay. If there is any equity to be done in the matter it is not the Hongkong Government that should be called upon to do it, but the Government to which the steamer is under contract. Let us suppose the case of a line of British subsidised steamers calling at foreign ports, and that owing to a change in the law at one or more of those ports it was found difficult to carry out the terms of the contract; the British Government might or might not be willing under such circumstances to vary the contract, but we are quite sure they would never go to the foreign Governments cap in hand and ask them to vary their laws so as to give British ships an advantage over native ships. Such a request would be deemed too utterly idiotic for the British Government to prefer to a foreign Government, yet when it is preferred by a foreign Government to the British Government it is at once conceded.

MR. WETMORE ON CHEAP SILVER AND THE WAGES QUESTION.

The Eastern Bimetallic League is energetically carrying on its propaganda in favour of the double standard. The latest of its publications is a paper by the President of the League, Mr. W. S. WETMORE, on "Gold monometallism and its effects upon wages." Mr. WETMORE has given a close study to the silver question and anything upon the subject from his pen is invariably interesting, but in the present case we cannot endorse his conclusions, nor is his paper likely to commend bimetallicism to the democracy, with whom the settlement of important political questions now rests. His principal contention is that the fall in the gold value of silver has rendered labour in the East fifty per cent. cheaper than labour in the West, that is to say, that while a sovereign will now purchase twice as much labour in China as formerly a dollar in England will only purchase half the labour that it did formerly. This, in Mr. WETMORE's opinion, gives the East such an advantage that it will supplant the West in the matter of industrial enterprise. Nothing, he says, can prevent this except a re-establishment of an international ratio of 15½ to 1 of gold. The effect of that would be to diminish the purchasing power of the British working man's wages by one half, an object which the working man is not likely to support with any enthusiasm, even in spite of the prediction that if he does not submit to it he will lose the chance of earning any wages whatever. But we cannot agree with Mr. WETMORE that such a disturbance in the relative value of labour in the East and the West as he represents has taken place. The position of

the British working man, it is true, is to-day superior to what it was half a century ago, because he has participated, naturally and rightly, in the general prosperity of the country. That participation must be represented either by increased wages or by an increase in the purchasing power of wages, or partly by one and partly by the other. But if the working man is better off now than he was formerly his labour is also more efficient. In the December *Contemporary* there is an interesting article by Mr. MUIHALL on the carrying trade of the world, in which there is given a table showing the increase in the efficiency of our seamen, from which it would appear that while in 1860 the tons per man carried by sea was 110, in 1892 the number had increased to 461. That of course is mainly due to the advance made in shipbuilding and in machinery, and the same is the case with the increased productive power of the factory operative. But Mr. WETMORE says the silver countries are free to adopt, "to any extent they may wish," all the labour saving methods which, for a period, gave the West such pre-eminence in industrial enterprise. When those methods have been adopted it will be found that in silver using countries as well as in gold using countries the working man will secure a share in the profits and that in the same ratio as his efficiency increases as compared with the European working man his remuneration will also increase.

Mr. WETMORE says that "the unwise legislators of the West deprived the accumulations of the products of the past in silver countries of half their purchasing power in those of the gold standard." But Mr. WETMORE himself published interesting tables a short time ago showing that the purchasing power of silver had not declined, and it is by silver that "the accumulations of the products of the past in silver countries" are represented. Mr. WETMORE's position, as we then understood it, was that gold had appreciated, not that silver had declined. However that may be, the severance of the bimetallic tie has caused commercial distress with which we are all unfortunately only too familiar. But it does not follow that the re-establishment of the old ratio is now a desideratum. The general body of bimetallicists, while maintaining the necessity of the use of silver as money and the importance of a fixed ratio between it and gold, shrink from declaring what that ratio should be. Mr. WETMORE has no such hesitation. He says:—"The period is within the memory of many now living when India and China sent various kinds of cotton, silk, and other fabrics to the Western markets, because the unaided hand labour of the East was fully as cheap as that of the West aided by the best contrivances that had been devised up to that time. Then came the brilliant inventions for increasing the productive power of labour which characterised the second and third quarter of this century, followed by a wonderful tide of prosperity which flowed over the Western world and for a time enabled the West to outstrip the East, but now the tables are being turned again. The gold standard countries by their suicidal action with regard to currencies have cut off the silver countries from all fixed financial relationship, and at a single blow have given them an advantage of 50 per cent. in the hand labour markets of the world, while the latter are free to adopt, to any extent they may wish, all the labour-saving methods which, for a period, gave the West such pre-eminence in industrial enterprise; and now the tide has turned, not only will the industries of the West suffer from the loss of their markets in the

"East, but from the cheap labour products of the latter with which the West will soon be inundated; and nothing under existing circumstances can prevent this except a re-establishment of an international ratio of 15½ to 1 between silver and gold."

Here we join issue with Mr. WETMORE. A sudden reversion to the ratio of 15½ to 1 would cause a commercial convulsion scarcely less disastrous than that which followed the rupture of the bimetallic tie. What trade wants is stability of exchange, but the ratio of 15½ to 1 having become impossible we will have to be content with some lower ratio, if indeed it be found possible to establish any ratio at all. The trend of politics in America shows that there is little hope for silver in that country, and Great Britain is not at all likely to depose the gold sovereign from the position it holds, and while Great Britain holds aloof other countries will do nothing, or will only try to establish themselves more fully on a gold basis. We believe firmly in the theory of bimetallism and regret its subversion, but having once been so completely abandoned as it has been we do not think it will be found possible to re-establish it. The attitude of the bimetalist towards silver should now therefore be something like that of a doctor towards an injured limb: so long as there is a hope of saving it he tries his best to do so, but when he sees that his efforts are fruitless and that the patient's life is in danger he resorts to amputation. If it is impossible to restore silver to its former position the next best thing is to let it find its natural level under the new conditions and stay there. Then we would have something approaching stability and trade would adapt itself to whatever the ratio might happen to be. The question of whether the dollar is worth four shillings or two shillings is a very momentous one for individuals, but the transition stage once safely passed trade can be as well conducted on the one basis as the other. Mr. WETMORE seems to fall into the error of regarding money as wealth instead of as merely representative of wealth. Sovereigns and dollars are simply counters in the game of commerce, and the products of one country will continue to be exchanged for those of another no matter what the relative value of the counters to each other may happen to be. There is no saving virtue in a ratio of 15½ to 1 any more than in any other ratio; all that is required is that the ratio, whatever it may be, should be a stable one; and it appears now as if stability were more likely to be attained by refraining from legislative interference than by the contrary course. The general opinion seems to be that silver has now reached its natural level and with the renewal of the confidence which that belief engenders a revival of trade seems to have already set in.

THE RECALL OF M. DE LANESSAN.

The news of the recall of M. DE LANESSAN, Governor-General of Indo-China, has thrown a damper on the New Year festivities of our neighbours in Tonkin. As the case stands we cannot but sympathise with them, although at first sight it seems rather ridiculous that a man of signal ability and known integrity like M. DE LANESSAN should be subjected by his Government to the disgrace of being suddenly recalled by a telegram sent through the Agence Havas. It will be fresh in the memory of all our readers that the late Governor-General only returned to Tonkin within the last few months, after a short holiday in Europe, endowed with full power by his Government. Since his arrival M. DE LANESSAN has not been idle; and he has had the satisfaction of seeing some

of the works begun during his first term happily accomplished. On arrival in Haiphong he inaugurated the new swing bridge; at Hanoi he saw the splendid hospital which bears his name completed and opened; in company with Madame DE LANESSAN he visited the Chinese frontier at Laokay, inaugurating the era of steam navigation up the rapids of the Red River; and only a day or two before his recall he presided at the banquet held at the inauguration of the Phu-lang-thuong-Langson Railway at Langson. What will become of his new railway projects now? Probably they will be consigned to the limbo of good intentions by his successor, to be modified or placed to the credit of some future Governor-General.

Many rumours are afloat as to the cause of this sudden recall, the principal being that His Excellency was in some way implicated in the affairs of the blackmailer CANIVET. It appears that on searching CANIVET's papers copies of official documents were found concerning Indo-China which it is claimed ought never to have been communicated to other than Government officials. Probably M. DE LANESSAN was subjected to the squeeze process while in France, and if he put valuable information into the hands of this journalist in return for his support, though it may be considered a weakness, it is scarcely astonishing, the same thing being done every day in the political world. M. DE LANESSAN, like many other politicians, had got into the hands of an unscrupulous Press, his policy during the first three years of his administration in Tonkin having been mercilessly pulled to pieces and opposed by the Parisian journals, who seem to imagine the best way to further their country's interest (or their own?) is by running down their colonies, their administration, and in fact everything that does not bring grist to their own mill.

Unfortunately the Paris journals have not been wanting in imitators even in Tonkin during the last few years, as some of the editors there have turned their coats more than once; although now, at the last moment, the bitterest detractors of the late Governor see the evil done, and cannot help expressing their regrets at the result. And this, evil lies, not so much in the lowering of the prestige of a French Colonial Governor "in the eyes of the surrounding nations," as in the unfortunate effect it will have amongst the native population whom he was called upon to govern. The proud though ignorant Court of Hué certainly would not degrade one of their own mandarins with so little regard for appearances; and what can they or their viceroy in Tonkin, who has also a little court around him, think of the next representative of France who comes amongst them but as a puppet who may be ordered out of office at a day's notice by telegram, as summarily as they would discharge one of their menials? Unfortunately also for the colony it has received a blow from the effects of which it may be long in recovering. The pirates will take heart of grace and recommence their depredations, which under the rule of M. DE LANESSAN had gradually been disappearing, and the removal of a Governor who encouraged by every means in his power commercial enterprise, and who had already inspired confidence amongst capitalists in France, will, it is to be feared, retard the development of the extensive mining and industrial speculations which have already taken root in the country. Whatever may have been the faults of Governor DE LANESSAN, his political opponents should have remembered the good services he had already rendered; while the brusque, not to say brutal, manner of his recall shows

a want of discrimination unimaginable to our insular ideas. While wishing M. ROUSSEAU, the newly appointed Governor-General, every success in the difficult task he has before him on his arrival in a new country, we must again express our sympathies with the colonists of Indo-China and with M. DE LANESSAN.

ASIATIC COMPETITION WITH EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES.

In the Christmas number of the *Review of Reviews* Mr. STEAD draws a harrowing picture of how the white man with the yellow money is to go down before the yellow man with the white money. Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND, in his speech at the recent meeting of the P. & O. Company, struck a similar note. It was, he said, impossible to shut their eyes to the fact that great changes were operating, and were likely to operate, in the countries in which the Company had its principal intercourse, in consequence of the great cheapness of silver relative to the value of gold. He referred to Bombay's rivalry to Manchester, to the strides being made by Japan in cotton manufacture and in manufactures of other kinds, to the commencement being made in Shanghai in the same line of enterprise, and, he continued, "there cannot be the slightest doubt but that this low value of silver, if it continues, must tend to check exports from Europe to those countries, and must stimulate industrial and manufacturing activity in the Far East. It is impossible to foresee to what this may eventually tend; but there may possibly be in this room at the present moment some gentlemen young enough (I hardly think that I am one of them) to live to see P. and O. ships built on the banks of the Yangtse-kiang instead of on the banks of the Clyde, or the Tees, or the Tyne." Whether the P. & O. Company will ever go abroad to have its ships built is a problem we will not venture to discuss, but it may be suggested that if ever that day arrives it will be a sign that England as a commercial and maritime power has entered on her decadence, that she will no longer continue to be the chief carrier of the world, and that the services now conducted by magnificent British liners to all parts of the globe will pass under other flags. For ourselves, we have sufficient confidence in the Anglo-Saxon race to believe that notwithstanding its currency errors and other mistakes it will continue to hold its place in the trade of the world. But it is not to be supposed, whatever currency laws may prevail, that other countries will not try to manufacture what they can for themselves when they learn the way. The appreciation of gold has no doubt given India and Japan great advantages in establishing cotton and other manufactures, and the belief that a great mistake was made, from a European point of view, in severing the bimetallic tie is steadily gaining ground. But it is, we believe, possible to exaggerate the consequences of that mistake. The trade of the world can adjust itself to any standard and any currency so long as it is a moderately stable one, and sooner or later gold and silver will find their relative levels. Up to the present point we doubt whether the Dock and Shipbuilding Companies either in Hongkong or Shanghai would say that cheap silver has been any benefit to them; we suspect the verdict would be rather the other way; but whether with cheap or dear silver it is inevitable that in large shipping centres, wherever situated, the shipbuilding industry should find a footing. So with cotton and other manufactures, where an opening presents itself and the necessary capital is

available it is inevitable that such manufactures should be established. That necessarily means competition with British trade at certain points, but on the whole trade with progressive countries will prove more satisfactory than with unprogressive ones. France, for instance, with one-tenth of the population of China, absorbs nearly three times the quantity of British products and manufactures than China does, notwithstanding a protective tariff; and the case of Germany is the same, and that of the United States still more so. The building of a ship on the Yangtze, therefore, or the establishment of a cotton manufactory at Shanghai, is not to be taken as presaging the doom of British industry. We can afford to shake hands with the yellow man with the white money and wish him well in his enterprises, with a comfortable feeling of assurance that the more he prospers the more he will be able to buy from us.

THE WAR.

LONDON, 8th January.

Japan refuses to agree to an armistice. Col. Denby believes parleying will prove fruitless until Peking is occupied.

The Japanese are landing parties and exploring the bays near Shantung.

LONDON, 9th January.

The German Society has voted a sum of Four Hundred Pounds Sterling for the use of the Red Cross Society of Japan.

The Times correspondent describes four days' horrible butchery of unarmed Chinese, attended with nameless atrocities. Groups of prisoners were tied together, riddled with bullets, and afterward hacked to pieces.

The Times in a leading article admits the Japanese had some provocation in the mutilation of a few of their countrymen, but the disgrace of cold-blooded butcheries rests with the Japanese Army, adding that the General who failed to arrest this merciless slaughter has cast an indelible blot upon Japanese arms.

LONDON, 12th January.

The Japanese force captured Hai-phing on the 9th instant, after four hours' fighting; the Chinese fled to Huishaksha, after losing two hundred killed, the Japanese pursuing.

LONDON, 14th January.

The Japanese forces are advancing steadily towards Kinkow. The Chinese are slowly retiring on the great wall, where a final stand is expected to be made.

LONDON, 15th January.

Chinese arriving from Manchuria bring ghastly reports of the state of the country. They state that the entire population has perished, and groups of frozen corpses are to be seen. The exhaustion of the country hinders the movements of troops on both sides.

NEWS VIA SHANGHAI.

AN ARMISTICE REFUSED.

TIENTSIN, 7th January.

Pending negotiations for peace the Chinese Government asked for an armistice, which has been refused by Japan. The chief envoy for peace, H.E. Chang Ying-huan, started by steamer from Shanhaikuan for Shanghai this noon.—N. C. Daily News.

The following telegrams are from the Mercury:—

HON. J. W. FOSTER'S AID APPRECIATED.

PEKING, 4th January.

The Emperor and high officials are very much gratified that the Hon. J. W. Foster, formerly American Secretary of State, has accepted the invitation to aid China in the settlement of peace between China and Japan, and regard it as the very best arrangement that could be made.

MR. W. N. PETHICK.

PEKING, 4th January.

Mr. W. N. Pethick, former U.S. Vice-Consul at Tientsin, who lately arrived here, has been introduced by the United States Minister to the Chinese Minister (P. Envoy), with whom he has had several interviews.

REPORTED ADVANCE TOWARDS HAICHENG OF GENERAL SUNG.

YOKOHAMA, 5th January.

Lieutenant-General Nodan telegraphs from Toohongtan on the night of the 3rd instant that

scouts sent out in the direction of Kaeping report having discovered between Twentien and Kaeping a Chinese force four thousand strong under General Chang. Other scouts from the direction of Kaokwang report the existence, between Haohafang and Shichaoan, of a Chinese force, strength unknown, under General Nieh, who is raising levies among the peasantry, examining them in the use of the rifle and enrolling and rejecting according to the result. General Sung is reported by the natives to be advancing towards Haicheng, which gives rise to uneasiness among the inhabitants of Kaokwang and vicinity.

OMANG YING-HUAN LEAVES PEKING ENROUTE FOR JAPAN.

PEKING, 7th January.

His Excellency Chang Ying-huan, the Envoy appointed to Japan, left the capital to-day.

An Imperial Edict has been issued proclaiming that a Commission has been appointed and has left, but without stating for what purpose or for what destination.

THE TWO AMERICANS LATELY ARRESTED ON BOARD THE "SYDNEY."

CHEFOO, 7th January.

Your readers will no doubt remember the two Americans, Messrs. Wilde and Howie, who were arrested at Kobe by the Japanese on board the French mail steamer Sydney, and were released on giving a written promise not to go to China, and were supposed to have left for Siam or some other place in the South. I now learn that these two men are at Weihaiwei. The older man is waiting to get away as quickly and as quietly as possible. The younger of the two has joined the Chinese navy.

LIU MING-CHUAN ARRIVES AT PEKING.

PEKING, 8th January.

Liu Ming-chuan, formerly Governor of Formosa, has arrived at Tientsin. He is reported to be almost blind, but he has been sent for by the Throne, to consult with the Tsung-li Yamén on matters concerning the war.

LIU KUN-YI STILL AT PEKING.

PEKING, 8th January.

Viceroy Liu Kun-yi, late of Nanking, is still at Peking. He is busy consulting with the Tsung-li Yamén.

INDEPENDENCE OF KOREA DECLARED.

YOKOHAMA, 8th January.

An official telegram has been received from Seoul, dated the 7th instant, stating that on that day the King of Korea proceeded to the ancestral temple, and there declared the independence of Korea. He was accompanied by all his Ministers and high dignitaries, and escorted by his soldiers dressed and armed in modern style. Ministers Bokuyieko and Jokohan were specially guarded by Japanese policemen. Order was kept in the streets by new Korean police.

THREE TONGHAK LEADERS EXECUTED.

YOKOHAMA, 8th January.

An official telegram from Seoul, dated the 8th instant, states:—Information has been received from Fusan that the inhabitants of Kowiyoken have seized and executed three of the principal Tonghak leaders. Korean soldiers are pursuing the Tonghaks, who, in consequence of the death of their leaders, are dispersing in every direction.

COUNT ITO'S SPEECH IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

YOKOHAMA, 8th January.

To-day Count Ito made an effective speech in the Lower House. He said that matters relating to the war and foreign relations were clearly set forth in the speech from the Throne and further details must be withheld for the present. The repeated victories were attributed to the bravery and loyalty of the Army and Navy, unanimously supported by the nation as represented by the Houses.

Count Ito deeply appreciated the honour of being Premier at this very important period of the nation's history, and he promised to use his utmost endeavours to discharge the duties required of him by the Emperor and the people. Count Ito also stated that the advanced state of the country required various measures, but necessary war measures, the ordinary budget, and a few urgent matters were only to be submitted now. He also stated that after the war had terminated the Government would submit several useful measures. He closed his speech by expressing a desire that the House would coincide with the views of the Government and deliberate with the least possible delay. The whole House listened with the utmost respect and attention. After

the speech was concluded the House immediately adjourned.

LI SHUN-YON APPOINTED KOREAN MINISTER TO JAPAN.

YOKOHAMA, 8th January.

A telegram from Seoul, dated the 8th instant, states that Li Shung-yon, grandson of Tai Won-kun, has been appointed Minister to the Court of Japan for Korea. He leaves Korea at an early date.

GENERAL WEI CAPTURED AND CONDEMNED.

PEKING, 9th January.

General Wei Ju-kwei, of Pingyang fame, has been captured and has arrived here and been handed over to the Board of Punishments. An Edict has been issued in which he has been condemned, having been found guilty of running away from the enemy, cowardice, extortion, and plunder.

TAIPINGSHAN RESUMPTION ARBITRATION BOARD.

At the session of the Taipingshan Board held on Friday the award of the Board on claims 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Mr. Alford said—In this case Mr. Danby and I regret that we are unable to concur with the Chairman. The claimant is the original lessee and has been in undisputed possession of the property for no less than 37 years, but it is now found that though the boundaries mentioned in the leases do not differ from the existing boundaries, the area within those boundaries is larger than the area recorded in the leases. This so-called "encroachment" is by itself of little marketable value; it is a long narrow strip on the south side, bounded for the greater part by a high retaining wall constructed by the Government when making Caine Road, which road is in the Crown leases stated to be the southern boundary of the lots in question. This "encroachment" is also practically without means of access thereto excepting over the area admitted to be the claimant's property, and had he (like others have done) applied for amended leases the Government could scarcely have refused the application. To avail now of the unexpected opportunity afforded by the Resumption Ordinance to confiscate this so-called encroachment would be in our opinion contrary to the spirit of the Ordinance, which directs us to receive evidence of any matters we deem "just and fair" and to give "full and fair" compensation. We have to look back to 1858, a time when we believe that boundaries were usually "pegged out" by the survey department and were doubtless the primary indications as to limits of lots, and when records of incorrect or merely approximate measurements were not uncommon. Were we to name one award as due inclusive of the so-called "encroachment" and another award exclusive of it and so leave the matter as in our opinion doubtful, we think we should unfairly prejudice the claimant's position; we should thereby practically admit that

we were incapable of arriving at a decision on the merits of the case! We think justice will be met by an award of \$40,000 and for that sum and costs we give our judgment.

His Lordship then said—The award will therefore be for \$40,000 as the value of the whole property claimed by Cheung San.

His Lordship continued—We have made the following awards:—

Claim No.	Claimant.	Amount claimed.	Amount of Govt. offer.	Amount awarded.
11	Cheung San	\$56,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
15	Tang Kom Shee	\$55,514	\$30,000	\$35,000
3	The Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Limited	\$20,880	\$13,316	\$16,000
17	Wong Ka Pat	\$5,000	\$2,796	\$3,500

With respect to costs, we are of opinion, looking at the sums offered and those which we have awarded, that costs should be allowed in these cases; but we regret to see that the rules which we have laid down have not been accepted or followed in some respects and we again repeat the warning that in future in cases of exaggerated claims we will not grant costs, even if we award more than the Government offers. I wish also to make some remarks respecting the meaning which it was sought to place on the 5th paragraph of the interpretation clause of Ordinance 15 of 1888, respecting the words "rateable value." I expressed myself, perhaps, somewhat too strongly at the time, but I have considered the matter, looked up some authorities, and have come to the conclusion that there can be no doubt as to the meaning of the words. The Ordinance says:—"Rateable Value.—The rent at which any tenement might reasonably be expected to let, at the time of the valuation, from year to year, if the tenant undertook to pay all usual tenant's rates and taxes and if the landlord undertook to pay the Crown rent and the costs of repairs and insurance, with any other expenses necessary to maintain the tenement in a state to command that rent." Mr. Deacon and Mr. Wilkinson both contended that, according to this definition, there should, from the rent paid by the tenants, be made certain deductions for repairs and other outgoings and that the rateable value should be the net rent received by the landlord, and, therefore, from the sum assessed by the valuator no deductions should be made, because these had already been effected by the valuator. This is wrong. It must be borne in mind that the Ordinance does not use the words "annual value" or "net annual value," but it expressly says "the rent." And, secondly, that the rates are to be borne and paid, not by the landlord, but by the occupier. It is an "occupier's rate." See section 32 of the Ordinance. What the Ordinance says is, that the rent is to be taken as the basis, supposing that the tenant pays the rates and the landlord the repairs. Mark the word *rent*. Now, supposing the rent was say \$1,000, tenant to pay all taxes and all repairs, then the rateable value would not be \$1,000, but \$1,000 less taxes and plus repairs; because the rent is not \$1,000 only, but that sum plus the cost of repairs; and, if the rent is \$1,000, tenant to pay the taxes and the landlord the repairs, etc., then \$1,000 is the rent and the rateable value. Take three cases that I know of; the German Club pays \$4,500, rateable value \$4,500. The rent of No. 3, Seymour Terrace is \$55, and this is the rateable value; because, in addition to the \$55, the tenant pays the taxes and the landlord the repairs; and so, moreover, No. 35, Queen's Road Central: the rateable value is \$3,000 and the rent the same. The meaning of the words "Rent," "Annual Rent," and "Rateable Value" has often been considered in England. I will cite but one case, viz., *Smith v. The Corporation of Birmingham*, L.R. xi. Q.B.D. p. 195. It was provided, in a Water Act, that the charge made for the supply of water should be at a rate varying according to the annual rent, and *Smith*, the owner, contended that in fixing the annual rent, in addition to certain deductions which had been allowed him, he was entitled to a further deduction for the average annual cost of repairs, insurance, and other expenses, necessary to maintain the premises in a state to command the rents then received. Several cases were cited by the Judges in the course of their judgment, amongst them that of *R. v. Tomlinson*, 9 B. & C. p. 163; in which Bayley, J., said, "Annual rent is not annual profit or value." And the expression net

yearly rent is there held to be equivalent to the rent paid by the tenant after deducting taxes and charges of collection, and not the clear annual rent after every deduction including the part to be set aside for repairs. And the Court, after citing other decisions, says, at p. 205, "Having regard to these expressions as to the true meaning of annual value and to the words 'Annual Rent' in section 83 of the Act of 1885 and to the construction put upon the very similar words in *Sheffield Waterworks Company v. Bennett*, we think it would be running counter to the cases cited and laying down a rule inconsistent with them, if we were to hold the words 'annual rent' are equivalent to 'rateable value' ascertained in the manner provided by 5 & 7 W. IV. c. 96." Besides, the question is moreover finally decided by what the assessor here has always done in fixing the assessed value. He takes the rent paid by the tenants, and from that deducts or not the taxes, according as they are paid by the tenant or not, and then, in cases where the premises are let in floors, in order to make provision for any of the floors that might be untenanted during any period of the assessment year, the assessor, upon the representation of the owner, allows a deduction from the net rental, and the rating value is finally fixed after such deduction.

The Board then proceeded to the consideration of other claims and the following were disposed of:—

Claim 6, lot 701 (a), amount claimed \$15,000, amount offered by Government \$10,890. The Board awarded the exact sum offered by the Government.

Claim 30, inland lot 244 (a). This was settled by agreement at \$1,650, the amount claimed being \$1,900, and the amount offered at first being \$1,500.

Claim 34, inland lot 241, amount claimed \$5,600. This was settled by agreement at \$5,350.

Claim 18, inland lot 244. In this case the Government offer of \$3,000 was accepted by claimant.

Claim 21, inland lot 406 (sect. a). In this case the Government offer of \$2,000 was also accepted.

Claim 12, inland lot 291 (a) remaining portion was settled by agreement at \$10,050.

On Monday Claim No. 19, referring to inland lot No. 407 sect. A and inland lot No. 600 sect. A, was settled, the award being \$8,000, the amount of the Government's offer. The claim was for \$8,750.

SUPREME COURT.

9th January.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE,
ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.

THE WING LOK STREET CASE.

The trial of the men charged with murder in connection with the Wing Lok street raid was continued.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman), instructed by the Crown Solicitor (Mr. A. B. Johnson) prosecuted, and the prisoners were defended by Mr. E. Robinson and Mr. E. H. Sharp, instructed by Mr. B. L. Dennys.

The jurors were Messrs. F. D. Gomes, H. Stolterfoht, E. Burnie, H. Crawford, J. D. Hutchison, E. H. Melbye, and A. O'D. Gourdin.

Inspector Kemp gave evidence as to the order in which the prisoners arrived at the Central Station.

Mr. W. Schmidt, gunmaker, identified the bullets as corresponding in size to the calibre of the revolver produced in Court and found at the place of the crime and said that with an inferior pistol like that one it was possible to blacken the index finger in firing.

Inspector Quincey testified as to certain of the prisoners being the same who were arrested in Wing Lok Street.

For the defence Mr. C. Ewens and Mr. H. McCallum testified as to prisoner No. 3; he having been in the employ of each. They said he was an average chair coolie except somewhat forgetful and careless.

Ip Kong, brother of prisoner No. 3, and his mother Mak Akai were called to prove that he was at their home, where he lived, on the night in question and at the time of the shooting.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Sharp then asked to have the case adjourned until to-day in order to have time to go into the great mass of evidence more fully, but his Lordship and the Attorney-General said it would be very inconvenient as they had other cases. On the matter being referred to the jury, they said they preferred to go on and finish now if possible. It was then decided to adjourn for one hour for dinner and finish the case.

Mr. Robinson called the attention of the jury to the fact that he was defending several men whose case, as he contended, should really be separated. He hoped the jury would bear this in mind and not allow acts that might be charged against one prisoner to prejudice the position of another, who might be innocent thereof. He differed from the learned counsel for the Crown in his interpretation of the law and cited Roscoe, p. 752, to show that if several go out with an intention to commit a felony and murder ensues by one of them the others are not necessarily guilty of murder. He divided his argument on the theory of the Crown into four subdivisions, each of which he discussed in detail. The first was the charge of murder by all of the prisoners of the Sikh constable; the second, the murder, by all of them, of the Chinaman; the third, that all fired at the district watchman with intent to murder him; and the fourth, that all fired at Lam On, the head district watchman, with intent to murder him. He also cited cases to show the danger of convicting upon circumstantial evidence, and even should a death occur in manner similar to that in this case, he said it must be shown that it was intentional, and that a man to be found guilty must be proved to have "aided and abetted" in the killing. After a long analysis of the main points of the evidence submitted on each side, he concluded that there was practically nothing that could be called conclusive and satisfactory proof connecting these men singly or as a body with the commission of these murders. The identification of the prisoners was utterly inadequate. The learned counsel also called attention to the fact that none of the neighbours had been called into testify, nor had the other two foks who were in the shop been called. He claimed that from the evidence it was clear that all the circumstances that occurred outside the premises were of no value and that therefore it became simply a question of identification inside and that the construction of the house and the dimly lighted room made a certainty or even probability of identification impossible. The prisoners were also strangers and a person seeing them in such a dim light for so short a time and under intimidation could not possibly be sure of remembering them. Furthermore, the men in the shop were tied by their queues in a kind of a bunch and could not have been in a favourable position for observing with accuracy. He also called attention to the discrepancies in identification by different witnesses. He then cited several other cases and closed by urging upon the jury that if they were in any doubt of the guilt of one or more they should not jeopardise the liberty or life of the others and that the law permitted them to return a verdict of not guilty, which did not imply innocence, but a lack of evidence to prove certain guilt.

Mr. Sharp, who represented prisoners four and five, then said that his task was a simpler one than that of Mr. Robinson, because he supposed all he had to face was the question of identification. He did not think any one claimed that his clients took any active part in the shooting. They were simply on guard and had nothing to do with the shooting. He did not imply conspiracy on the part of the shopkeepers or police, but they might be over-zealous in the desire to make an exemplary conviction. He wished his Lordship and the gentlemen of the jury would also keep in mind the many hours that elapsed between the commission of the crime and the identification of some of the prisoners. His task was, then, to consider, first, the law, and, second, the evidence relating to identification. Mr. Sharp thereupon discussed these two points at length, analysing the evidence and citing authorities to support his views and those of Mr. Robinson. He also showed how from the plan of the place it was impossible to fire through the house. He said there had been talk of so many shots fired, but only five bullets had been found and they were apparently all from the one revolver that now had the empty shells. There might have been

one or two more shots fired, but it was evident the other prisoners had thrown away their revolvers if they ever had any, and had not used them, showing they intended to use them only for intimidation and not for violence. He also called attention to the fact that certain acts were attributed by witnesses to several men whereas they could have been committed by only one man. He did not impeach the good faith of anyone, but only wished to show the unreasonableness of the statements.

The Attorney-General in his reply said it was three days since he told the jury what he would present to them in the way of proof, and he also indicated the law that should govern them in forming their opinion on the facts. That same law would be laid down to them by his Lordship when he came to sum up. They all had their parts to perform. The jury's function was to find a verdict in accordance with the evidence. They had nothing to do with the law. On law points there might be many conflicts raised, but these the Court would decide. The law would be laid down by his Lordship. All the jury had to consider was a verdict in conformity with the evidence. The duty of counsel for the defence was to do the utmost they could for their clients. His duty was to lay before the jury the facts as fairly as he could without prejudice to any one. He did not propose to argue on the law, although he might have to address a few words on authorities to his Lordship. He would, however, call their attention to two recent cases, 6 Q.B.D. p. 79 and 1 Russell on Crime p. 764. He then reviewed the main points of the evidence.

His Lordship then charged the jury.

The jury retired and after about half an hour returned into Court with a unanimous verdict of guilty as regards the first and second prisoners, and a verdict of not guilty by four to three as regards the third, fourth, and fifth prisoners.

His Lordship called the attention of the jury to the fact that under the Ordinance the verdict with regard to capital charges must be unanimous.

The jury then again withdrew.

At 12.15 his Lordship entered the Court again and sent for the jury, who reported that they were now five to two in favour of a verdict of not guilty as regards the third, fourth, and fifth prisoners. The Attorney-General accepted the verdict of not guilty on the last two counts (shooting at the district watchmen with intent to murder); but, with regard to the first three counts, it was decided they must be sent back till the Attorney-General decided whether a new trial would be necessary. The three last prisoners were then removed.

The two first prisoners were asked if they had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon them.

The first prisoner said—I was passing along and I was struck. I sat down and was sore and weak. Then a policeman came up and arrested me. Soon another man came and arrested me too. After that I was taken in a chair, to the station, and then to the hospital. I was partly unconscious. The doctor took out the bullet and cared for me. That is all I have to say.

The second prisoner said—I was walking along the street when some one came up and pushed me. He had something about him. It fell on the ground. I followed him for twenty or thirty steps. Two western men arrested me. Then a Chinese arrested me and took me up to a place. I do not know what it was for. I was questioned there. Then they searched my jacket. They took my jacket off. There was a watch there. Somebody held the watch chain in his hand. He took it up to the station and held the chain a long time at the station. Then he took hold of my hand like this; then he pushed my hand aside and it went into my pocket. That is all I said. Next day at the trial, La Mou told me to say that he had caught me. It was the western man that caught me. I could not say otherwise. He told me again the second day to say he had caught me. Then, when it came to trial, he pressed the charge against me and said I had a gun. I did not know the way where I was going and did nothing.

His Lordship—After a long and patient hearing the jury have unanimously found you guilty of murder. They have also unanimously found you guilty of shooting at a Chinaman with intent to murder and shooting to prevent a lawful arrest. If such desperadoes were to be permitted

to run at large, there would be no security for life or property. His Lordship then passed sentence of death in the usual form.

12th January.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE,
ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.

In re SMITH ALLISTON.

Mr. Smith Alliston, bankrupt, came up for his public examination. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, as official receiver, conducted the inquiry, and Mr. C. J. Grist, of Mr. Wilkinson's office, appeared for the petitioner.

Mr. Alliston, in reply to questions by the Receiver, said that he first came to Hongkong in April, 1892; that he was connected before coming here with a gold extracting company; that his capital on arriving here was from \$100 to \$200; that in October, 1893, he started in business here, forming a partnership with Ng Pak To and Tang Kit Shang. The total capital of the firm on starting was \$5,000, contributed by Ng Pak To and Tang Kit Shang. Between April and October, 1893, he went to Australia, the capital at that time still being \$5,000. Ng Pak To, about December, 1893, came to him and asked him if he would have any objection to his purchasing the interest of Tang Kit Shang, to which witness offered no objection, and he believed the transaction was consummated. The reason given by Ng Pak To for wishing to purchase the interest of Tang Kit Shang, was that it might become necessary for him to make further advances to carry on the business and that he wished to have a larger representative interest in the management and returns if he was to put in more money. In June, 1894, Ng Pak To asked witness if he would buy him out. Up to that date Ng Pak To had invested in the business about \$11,000, all told, including his original capital of \$5,000. Witness agreed to purchase his interest and gave him promissory notes for the same. These were not all drawn to Ng Pak To's order nor all made payable to him, but he believed they were all endorsed to him. They were in any event, all made out at his request. There was \$2,500 in the name of Tang Kit Shang; \$2,500 in the name of Ng Pak To's concubine, and \$4,700 in the name of Ng Pak To. Witness also gave Ng Pak To a promissory note of \$1,350, he thought, about a month after that. It was for settlement of interest and some other items due to Ng Pak To. Ng Pak To went to Macao and was away most of July and August. After that he was seen no more by witness, who, however, expected Ng Pak To would make a personal demand upon him for the interest, but he never did, until about the beginning of September, when he came to witness's office and applied for the interest. He was paid some \$38, witness thinking it was on interest account, but Ng Pak To subsequently said it was on account of money due to him for unpaid salary previous to sale of his interest in the business. In June, it seems, there were some \$50 due to Ng Pak To on account of salary and some \$30 for go-down rentals. When the partnership began Ng Pak To and another man were to have \$25 a month wages. Some time in September Ng Pak To issued a summons and demanded payment of the notes. The first note due was \$1,000, payable one year from date. Witness attributed his insolvency to three things: 1st, the failure of the bank in Australia through whose agency he expected to do a large business; 2nd, the failure of the big firm through which he was transacting most of his business there; and, 3rd, the demand for immediate payment of these notes at a time when it was so difficult to realise on anything. Ng Pak To advanced to the firm during the first six months about \$2,000. The assets of the partnership, six months after starting, would have paid eighty or ninety cents on the dollar. Besides what witness had borrowed from Ng Pak To, he said he had also borrowed money from his own brother. The money Ng Pak To had loaned was unsecured. Witness had also borrowed from Mr. Musso and from the Bank. The slight difference between what Mr. Musso claimed and what witness returned as the claim in his statement was probably due to interest. He did not know what was the reason of the difference between the claim of the China Mail for \$25 and the amount

of \$20 that he returned for that item. His petition was filed 10th November. He had no transactions with Messrs. Powell & Co. after that date that he recalled. Did not remember buying from them on the 28th November a doll and a hat, but might have done so. He had a personal account at Tuk Chennag's, the tailor, as well as a Company account. His bill there was, he believed, some \$17.75, while in March, 1894, the firm's was \$527. His personal account from October, 1893, to November, 1894, was \$187. His personal expenses had been, on an average \$250 a month. The firm had, until Ng Pak To went out of the partnership, an invoice book, a cash book, a day book, and a local ledger, all in Chinese, and, besides, a regular set of books in English. Witness said he owed the Bank nothing at present. At one time he owed the Bank \$520, but that had been paid. He thought there were some margins on some of his obligations that would yield a fair return if not sacrificed. He estimated his total liabilities at \$14,194 and his assets at \$6,201 if sold at forced sale; but if managed wisely they would return far more.

The Clerk of the Court then asked if there were any creditors present who wished to ask any questions and none appearing the examination was closed.

THE ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF PLAGUE IN TUNG KUN.

The following report by Surgeon-Major Westcott, A.M.S., on the subject of the existence of plague in Tung Kun is published in the *Gazette*—Hongkong, 7th January, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that I proceeded to Tung Kun on the 27th ultimo to investigate the disease stated to be prevalent there. I was accompanied from Canton by Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, the Vice-Consul at that port. At Tung Kun on the 31st December I interviewed Dr. Kühne, of the Rhenish Mission, who had been resident at the Mission Hospital for the last seven years, and he informed me—

- 1.—That the Chinese doctor at Shek Lung, a large town on the East river, 8 miles N.W. of Tung Kun, was at Tung Kun on the 29th November, 1894, and reported that he had heard about several cases of plague in Shek Lung, and that he had had one case under his own treatment which died in three days, the axillary glands being affected.
- 2.—That he had heard from his Chinese teacher that in Tung Kun on the 3rd December a boy 10 years old came to the hospital grounds from the country to see some friends, and in the evening he became ill and died on the following night from high temperature and syncope. His grandmother, living in the same house, became ill six days afterwards, and on the second day of the disease she sent to borrow Dr. Kühne's clinical thermometer, which, on return, registered 102 deg.; she died on the third day and her family circulated a report that the doctor's thermometer had caused her axillary glands to swell.
- 3.—That on the afternoon of the 10th December a Chinaman was selling sugar and water in the streets, and in the evening he was dead of "season disease."
- 4.—That in one street near the north gate six people in one family died at about the same date.
- 5.—That he (Dr. Kühne) had noticed that many rats died in the hospital premises two months ago.
- 6.—That on the 16th December the scavenger reported that 30 coffins passed one of the gates in one day.

Dr. Kühne being unable to give any evidence of the existence of plague at the present time kindly placed his Chinese medical assistant and Chinese teacher (who is also a medical practitioner in the town) at my disposal, and I sent these men, and also the native of the town who was sent from Hongkong with me to try to discover if the inhabitants were dying in unusual numbers from any disease, and I offered a reward of \$10 to any one who would show me a case of plague in any stage or a body dead of the disease. They reported next day that they were unable to discover any case, and that no unusual sickness prevailed.

In the meantime I called on several native doctors in different parts of the town, and con-

for others to come to me, and their evidence was to the effect that there had been some cases of bubonic plague during the last six weeks, but that the latest they had heard of occurred about ten days ago; they could not take me to see a case, but were willing to keep any affected person who might consult them at their dispensaries for me to see, if I would wait in the neighbourhood and pay for a coffin should the patient die after seeing me.

In consequence of the report from Shek Lung, I visited that town with Dr. Kühne, Mr. Bourne, and Interpreter Quincey. At the place of embarkation on the north of the town I was an object of interest to the crowd of boatmen, &c.; they were evidently inspired by some fear, as one of them shouted—"Don't go too near, as he will drag you to him, and cut you in two," this being the treatment accorded to their countrymen by the foreign doctors in Hongkong, according to pamphlets circulated in this and other towns, during the epidemic in Hongkong.

At Shek Lung, a large, dirty, and overcrowded town, we were followed by a large crowd, principally of yelling children, and the demeanour of the inhabitants was sullen and unfriendly.

On arrival at the house of Dr. Mak the children were kept outside, but the men followed us in and insisted on remaining during the interview.

Dr. Mak, a Christian Chinese medical practitioner, who was for six years first assistant to Dr. Kerr at the Mission Hospital at Canton, informed us that the case he had reported to Dr. Kühne was the only one he had had personal knowledge of, but that he heard that it still prevailed, and here he consulted his friends among the crowd and stated that they were of the same opinion; but on going more deeply into this evidence, I concluded that it was of very little value, and I then offered a reward of \$10 if any one would take Interpreter Quincey to see a case, but without result, so, as in the case of Tung Kun, I formed the opinion that it did not exist in epidemic form.

I next made investigations along the delta from Tung Kun to Tai-ping-Hü, the last town on this route towards Hongkong, and I found that plague did not exist. At Tai-ping-Hü I learned that many persons returned from Hongkong during the epidemic and died, but they did not communicate the disease to others.

At Canton and in Fatsan, a large town 10 miles south-west of Canton, a few cases have been reported to exist by the intelligence officers of the Consulate as lately as ten days ago, but no case can be discovered now.

The conclusions I draw from this enquiry are—

- 1.—That there have been sporadic cases of the disease during November and part of December in Canton, Fatsan, Shek Lung, and Tung Kun.
- 2.—That no cases have been found during the last fortnight by anybody.
- 3.—That all those who reported the cases in December can find none now.
- 4.—That it is evident that the poison lingers in the district, but whether it will again cause an epidemic will depend on the sanitary surroundings and climatic conditions which it will encounter.

The whole of the drains in Canton are cleaned every third year, and they have just been cleaned in accordance with this custom. The Chinese also attach much importance to the rain which has recently fallen, but it was evident after an inspection of the houses in the parts of Canton from which the greatest number of cases came last year, and of those in the other towns visited, that no reliance can be placed on their sanitary condition to ward off another epidemic should the other conditions be favourable.

Many of the rumours of the prevalence of plague in various parts of the province with which I dealt during my enquiry, on close investigation have proved to be due to diseases other than plague, the confusion arising from the fact that the Chinese have no specific nomenclature for bubonic plague, but employed the terms "Wen-yik" and "Shih-cheng," which embrace any suddenly fatal epidemic disease.

In closing this report I have the honour to bring to your notice the kind manner in which the mission was received by Dr. Kühne and the great trouble he took to help us in every way.

I also met with all possible help from Mr. Bourne, the Vice-Consul at Canton, his knowledge of the country people, and language was

bled me to overcome many difficulties and to accomplish my mission in a very much shorter time than would otherwise have been necessary.

Interpreter W. Quincey was also a valuable assistant and displayed great intelligence and tact in the performance of his duties—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
SINCLAIR WESTCOTT,
Surgeon-Major, A.M.S.

Hongkong, 7th January, 1895.

FIRE AT THE "CHINA MAIL" OFFICE.

On Saturday night, a little before half past nine, fire was discovered to have broken out on the top floor of the office of the *Chinese Mail* in Wellington Street. The *China Mail* occupies the house at the corner of Wyndham Street and Wellington Street and the two adjoining houses in Wellington Street, the second of which is devoted to the business of the Chinese issue. It was in this house and on the top storey that the fire originated, and it communicated to the adjoining house, burning out the room occupied by the sub-editor of the *China Mail*. The corner house was almost completely untouched. The fire is supposed to have originated in a Chinese cookhouse, but exactly how is not known, as no one seems to have seen it, the first discovery being made by the office coolie hearing the crackling of burning wood, and in a few minutes the whole floor was in a blaze. The office had been closed, after the issue of the *China Mail*, about half-past eight. There are no Europeans living on the premises, and on the closing of the office most of the Chinese seem to have gone out to spend the evening. When the fire was discovered some delay occurred in giving notice to the Fire Brigade. Up to the time of the departure of the Shropshire Regiment one of the men of that Regiment who were attached to the Fire Brigade was kept on duty at the Clock Tower all night with one of the fire despatch boxes, and had he been there on Saturday night it is possible that the fire might have been checked at the outset, but since the departure of the Shropshires the man at the Clock Tower has not been replaced, the men from the Rifles who have joined the Brigade not being considered as yet sufficiently advanced in fire drill to undertake the duty. The first assistance therefore had to come from No. 5 Station, and with the greater distance and the delay which had taken place in the giving of the alarm, the fire had got a firm hold on the upper storey of the house in which it originated before anything was done to stop it. When the Brigade arrived on the spot a good stream of water was obtained from the plug at the corner of Wyndham and Wellington Streets, which was thrown on the fire from the Wellington Street side, but unfortunately there was no pressure higher up Wyndham Street and the hose that was laid up the stairs from the Wyndham Street entrance to check the progress of the fire in that direction was in consequence useless until the turncock had been sent for to turn the water on. The fire was, however, very well managed when water was obtained, and was confined to the top floors of the two houses in Wellington Street, the damage being much less than the big blaze might have led one to expect. The top floor of the second house in Wellington Street was occupied by the editorial offices of the *Chinese Mail* and that of the first house by the sub-editor of the *China Mail*. The plant, which was on the ground floor and first storey was not affected by the fire, but will have suffered damage from the water. There was no suspension in the publication of the *China Mail*, but the Chinese issue was stopped for a day. The damage is covered by insurance with the China Fire.

According to latest advices from Ningpo, says the *N. C. Daily News*, the city of Chin-hai, at the mouth of the Yung river, now wears a deserted appearance, no less than seven-tenths of its inhabitants having left the city to its fate owing to the rumours prevalent of an expected Japanese bombardment in the near future. Even at Ningpo itself business is at a standstill, depositors in the banks being only paid \$87 for every hundred deposited on interest before the present alarm.

CHILDREN'S TREAT AT THE CENTRAL POLICE STATION.

The large compound of the Central Police Station was a festive scene of gaiety on Saturday afternoon. It was the children's Christmas treat given by the Captain Superintendent and Mrs. May. The compound and lawn were beautifully decked out with many large banners and smaller brightly coloured flags and streamers and all along the lawn were the tables bounteously heaped with the dainties that delight the little ones. The afternoon was spent in sports, and after tea an adjournment was made to the Captain Superintendent's quarters for the great event of the afternoon. The festivities were a great success and the tiny folk as they left seemed to have enough added joy in their faces to last out at least another year. Perhaps the feature that made the most vivid impression on their plastic minds was the unique sight of Captain Sterling as he entered the room and dispensed the presents from the twinkling Christmas tree. Rigged in a sumptuous white Mother Hubbard, trimmed with golden yellow fringe, and having huge leg-of-mutton sleeves; wearing on his head a monstrous fluffy white cotton wig and over his eyes massive dark brows, and with a giant's staff in his hand, he seemed to be one of the Norse gods and to bear in his towering form all the mystic weirdness of his home of ice and snow. The children will always feel that they will never see just such another Santa Claus.

Among the visitors present were—General and Mrs. and Miss Barker, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Capt. Fawkes and Mrs. Fawkes, Dr. Ayres, C.M.G.; Capt. Murray, A.D.C.; Capt. Stewart, R.E.; Miss Eastman, Chief Inspector Mathieson, and the inspectors and sergeants of the force.

The following were the winners in the sports:—

FLAT RACE FOR GIRLS (over 7 years)—	
Lily Witthell	1
Gertrude Baker	2
May Hennessy	3
FLAT RACE FOR GIRLS (under 7 years)—	
Gertrude Baker	1
Annie Mann	2
Nellie Phelps	3
LONG RACE FOR GIRLS—	
Annie Corcoran	1
Isabel Baker	2
Cissie Hennessy	3
SHORT RACE FOR GIRLS—	
Connie Corcoran	1
Cissie Hennessy	2
Gertrude Baker	3
LONG RACE FOR BOYS—	
Willie Baker	1
Jim Witthell	2
Fred Baker	3
SHORT RACE FOR BOYS (under 6)—	
Leonard Ford	1
Cecil Foord	2
Willie Mackie	3
Three-legged Race—	
Willie Baker	1
Fred Baker	2
Dan Corcoran	3
Short Race—	
Willie Hall	1
Cecil Foord	2
Stanley Foord	3
Tug-of-War (Boys v. Girls)—	
Boys	1
Obstacle Race—	
Jas. Witthell	1
Dan Corcoran	2
Fred Baker	3

Considerable excitement, the *Poochow Echo* says, was caused amongst the shipping at Sharp Peak by the wild firing of the big guns from the forts at Chang Men, whilst at target practice on New Year's day. Shots were fired in every direction at considerable risk of the shipping and native boats, and it was with great difficulty that the Customs staff could convince the gunners that they were firing the wrong way at the targets. Anyhow the General sent later on a deputy to apologise to each of the captains of the vessels in port. All well that ends well, but a little care should be taken by those in charge of the forts that the target be placed where it does not endanger the shipping.

THE PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, was held on Monday at the offices, Connaught House. There were present Messrs. Mr. J. Orange (Chairman), D. Gillies, G. Fenwick, R. Shewan, J. H. Lewis (Directors), A. O'D. Goardin (Secretary), S. B. Bhabha, A. Tillott, R. Cooke, A. dos P. da Costa, T. F. Dayer, M. B. Polishwalla, George Holmes, R. C. Wilcox, G. C. Anderson, E. Burnie, J. S. Terry, J. R. Michael, S. S. Benjamin, Andrew Johnston, W. Shewan, J. M. Machado, J. Carvalho, O. Wegener, E. F. Alford, G. C. Cox, J. Kirkwood, R. Mitchell, R. M. Mehta, S. I. Danby, and F. E. C. Georg.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission I will take the report as read, and before asking you to pass the report and accounts I wish to make a few remarks on the work done. A report was received from Mr. Blamey by last mail, dated 26th December, giving a review of the work done during the past year, and I will now read it; the report will be printed and sent to each shareholder:—

"I beg to hand you my report on the operations carried on, and the results obtained for the year ending to date.

"And in doing this I wish to remark that, although the success we had all hoped for has not been realized, we have put forth strong efforts to deserve it. Of course I need not tell you that at the beginning of the year we were still busy at work sinking the August shaft from the 110ft. to the 200ft. level, with the object of testing the east and west and north and south reefs at the lower point. The required depth having been reached, a crosscut was commenced to go north to intersect the former of these, and at a distance of 128ft. from shaft we came up to the foot wall of it. On piercing it we found the reef to be strong, but I regret to say the ore was very poor indeed; hence my telegram of the 16th July. We had then driven about 6 ft. into the reef and had not reached the hanging wall. Driving was continued, and at 14 feet from shaft we struck the hanging country rock, thus showing the reef to be 23 ft. wide where passed through.

"No improvement had taken place in the value of the ore. A drive was then commenced to go east on the course of the reef, and after driving 29 ft. fair grade ore was met with; in fact, a small patch of specimen ore was got. But this did not last, the ore on further driving again becoming very poor.

"Crosscuts north and south to the hanging and footwalls of the reef were put out at this point, but without finding anything of value. The main drive was then extended east, and at 59 ft. from the main crosscut we came up to the course of the north and south reef. Here again a slight improvement in the value of the ore was noticed, but on opening out on the course of this reef the value dropped off to such an extent as to make it too poor even to save for the mill. The south drive was continued through ore of very low grade, and has now reached a point 80 ft. south of the east drive on the east and west reef.

"We shall continue this drive still further in the hope of getting into the chute of golden ground known to exist in the bottom of the 110 ft. level.

"A drive has now been driven west on the course of the east and west reef in the hope that better results might be got in that direction, but here, too, we have been disappointed, as after driving 40ft. without finding anything of value the reef became broken and unpromising in appearance. Work there has now been discontinued, for the present at least. The east drive on the course of the east and west reef having passed through the north and south reef, it necessarily became a crosscut for anything still further east, so it has been continued for reasons which will be given in a later part of this report. But I may mention here that its entire length from the main crosscut is 137ft., or 78ft. east of the north and south reef. I may also remark here many small drivages have been made at this level to the more fully prove that nothing of value had been missed, which I need not particularise further in this report. Having failed to find payable ore at the 200ft. level, we determined to fur-

ther test the reefs by putting in a level midway between the 110 and 200ft. levels, and early in the month of September the drive now known as the "Intermediate" was commenced. Special inducement in the shape of a bonus was offered to the contractor for this work, and by the end of October we had driven 87ft. through blasting ground and struck the east and west reef. I regret to say the ore here, too, was very poor. Drives were at once commenced east and west on the course of the reef, but these, although showing the reef to be strong and well defined, and occasionally giving small patches of payable ore, have not shown anything of real value. The east drive here will be continued till we are sure that the course of the north and south reef has been reached, when a drive will be commenced to go south to intersect the ore ground referred to in an earlier part of this report and when dealing with the south drive at the 200 ft. level. Knowing that the main crosscut at this "intermediate" level had not yet reached "Phillips's" leader, which gave such good results at and above the 110 ft. level, it was continued a further distance of 28 ft. and the leader intersected.

"Here again we were met by disappointment, the ore, although of fair grade, not being nearly so good as we had hoped for and had good reasons to expect. Drives east and west have been started on the course of this leader also, but up to this time the quality of the ore does not seem to improve. A winze to go down on the course of this leader from the bottom of the 110 ft. level is now being sunk and should connect with the west drive at the "intermediate" in a few days. The ore got in sinking is of fair grade and will pay to stop. The size of the leader varies from about 2 ft. to a few inches only. I may mention here that a winze has been sunk on the course of the east and west reef from the 110ft. level to the "intermediate" and so secured good ventilation. The depth of this winze is 53ft. 6in.

"At this 110 ft. level the old south crosscut has been cleared of mullock and repaired and is now being extended in a south easterly direction, with the object of reaching the north and south reef at a point immediately under where fairly good ore was got in the early part of the year and which could not well be worked, owing to the heavy influx of surface water and the troublesome nature of the ground.

"This crosscut is now out 178 ft. from the August shaft and may be expected to strike the reef at any time. At a point about 60 ft. east and 30 ft. north of the August shaft a winze has been commenced to go down on some gold bearing ground on the north and south reef and so further prove this point. It is showing ore of fair grade and promises to open up fairly good stoping ground. The No. 1 north level has been re-timbered throughout and is now in really good order.

"Various small drivages have been made here, too, to fully test doubtful points, but as they failed to show anything of real worth and are of minor importance, we need not further consider them here. The upper stopes have continued to give their usual quantity of ore for the mill and should do this for some months to come. The value of the ore has fallen off, but it is still payable. I estimate the reserves here at 2,000 tons. About 150 ft. south-west of the west end of these stopes a shaft has been sunk 40 ft. and a crosscut is now being driven out to the footwall of the east and west reef to see if we can trace the chute of gold seen in the upper stopes still further west. Four small trial shafts have been sunk south of the August shaft, the combined depth being about 220 feet. Ore of fair quality was got in nos. 2 and 3, but as the surface water caused a deal of trouble and made working very costly they were discontinued, as mentioned when dealing with the south-east crosscut 110 feet level.

"The tunnel driven through the heap of old headings for the better handling of same has been completed and samples of the headings sent to the mill, but this will come before you under the head of milling. The length of this tunnel is 140 feet. At a point about 600 feet north of the mill and near our Kladi dam a tunnel has been driven into the hill on which the manager's house stands, and a reef of very promising appearance found. The old workers (probably Jambese) had been there before us however, and removed almost all the ore of value, and as we were continually breaking through to

their old workings work there was discontinued and the men put to drive a tunnel on the other side of the hill and at a point about 44 feet deeper. It was in this latter tunnel that the discovery was made which caused the telegrams of the early part of this month to be sent you. I need not tell you I look upon this discovery as a most important one. This is the same reef as that seen in the Kladi tunnel, and at this point, too, is riddled with old workings.

"Its bearings is about N. 10° West and is enclosed within nice clay slate walls. It is to tap this reef that we are continuing the east crosscut at the 200ft. level, August shaft, and referred to in an early part of this report. A new tunnel 260ft. north of the Kladi has been commenced to go out and still further test this reef at that point, and as pieces of good ore have been found in the surface debris I have great hopes of soon seeing payable ore found there and the line of reef fully 800 ft. in length opened.

"Milling.—This has been carried on during 296 days, crushing 12,050 tons of ore, yielding 5,138 oz. 11 dwt. of melted gold. I may remark here that included in this tonnage is about 2,000 tons of headings the value of which is about 2½ dwts. per ton.

"Cyanide Works.—The excavations for these have been prepared and many of the timbers for the building are in position. Much of the plant is on the mine and the balance is in our godown at Panjom river. The laboratory has been completed, and the chemist is now busy at work preparing his samples. Owing to the very wet weather we have had here, all surface works have been greatly retarded, but now that the monsoon seems to have broken, I am hoping to see much better progress made and the cyanide plant at work within three months. The old 8 in and 6 in. draw lifts have been taken out of the August shaft and replaced by the 12 in. plunger lift, thus doing away with a great deal of trouble and expense in keeping the mine clear of water. The old winding gear has been removed and replaced by one of Langy's, which is now steamed off the boiler of the Robey engine. The saw bench has been put up and is now being used for cutting the planks, &c., as required here. The main dam has been put in thorough order and three new bridges built to replace those washed away on the Punjom road in October. These have been substantially built and are now quite safe. New workshops for the fitters have been built of corrugated iron and a Pelton wheel made here and put in position to run the necessary lathes, &c. Two hydraulic rams (automatic) for supplying the cyanide plant with water have also been made here and are ready for use. The centrifugal pump has been fitted up and is now engaged lifting the whole of our tailings the required height.

"New roads into the jungle for bringing out firewood and other timber have been made and the old roads repaired. The rainfall from 1st April to date is 103 inches. Labour is fairly plentiful and the health of the camp improving." By letter Mr. Blamey has advised us that with regard to the Mill Gully Reef, the drive going south broke into old workings and that the drive going north has met with a big dyke formation which has thrown the reef out of its proper course, but he is certain that this disturbance is only temporary, as evidenced by the old workings going further north, proving the continuation of the reef. Mr. Blamey regrets that these changes, while not lessening the value of the discovery in his estimation, will greatly interfere with the output of gold expected for December, and I must admit that I had hoped for a good outturn for December, and we were all somewhat exercised to account for the result until we received the explanation I have just given you. The proving of this new lode is of very great importance to us, and the crosscut from the 200 feet level and the new North drive will be watched with great interest. The value of the ore mined during the year included in the accounts averaged 11 dwts per ton as against 17 dwts for the previous year, and in spite of this reduction in value we have made a profit on the working of about \$45,000 as against \$25,000 last year. But we have not got this amount as cash in hand, for we have been obliged to spend the greater part of the money earned in payments which properly belong to capital account. These payments are approximately as follows:—

Cost of Cyanide plant about	\$12,000
Payment to the Penjom Pahang Creditors in order to obtain possession of Jalis	23,000
New Boiler, new 9-inch pump and various machinery	10,000
The item "Administration Account" calls for some explanation. The account includes the expenses at the mines apart from the actual cost of mining and milling and other items given in the Balance Sheet. The principal items in the amount are as follows:—	
Salaries of Europeans exclusive of Miners and Millmen about	\$11,300
Royalty on the gold won	8,000
Wages to coolies on work outside of mine, etc.	5,000
Payments for Concession	3,700
Agencies	4,400
Hospital charges	800
Freight and shipping	3,500
Roads, etc.	1,000
—The balance of about \$1600 being spent in new houses, carts, sundry stores, repairs, and a small expenditure on the dam. The cost of working, excluding the head office expenses and allowing for the profit on stores and opium, for the past year 1894 is \$12½ per ton of ore mined and milled, and under \$14 including head office and all expenses, while the cost per ton for the year '93 was \$17½ excluding head office expenses and \$20 including head office and all expenses. This is a marked improvement which is very satisfactory. For your information would say that in the <i>Mining Journal</i> I found a return given of a Johannesburg company which was dealing with about the same quantities and ore of about the same value as ours, and the cost was per month—	
Mining 1,437 tons value 11 dwts per ton	20s. 7d.
Milling	10s. 3d.
General charges	4s. 4d.

or say \$17½ per ton. I recognize, however, that we ought to work somewhat cheaper than the Cape—(hear, hear)—and I think we can rely on Mr. Blamey to reduce expenditure in every way he can, as I am certain no one is more anxious than he is that such a profit should be made that there will be a balance left for the shareholders and not only for the mine. We were very pleased to see that the long-projected road from Kwala Kubu to Kwala Lipis is at last being vigorously pushed on. The construction of this road, which we hope will pass within 3 miles of Jalis, will be of immense assistance to us. The Cyanide plant was ordered and is at the mine. The erection has been greatly delayed by unusually heavy rains which have prevailed all over Pahang, and we do not think the plant will be at work until March. The chemist, Mr. White, reports that the tailings and concentrates are very suitable for the treatment, as also the water. The plant is supposed to treat 1,000 tons daily per month, and as we have a large stock of tailings besides the results of our crushing, we hope that the success of the present plant will soon justify us in increasing the plant to the full capacity of our milling power. A satisfactory agreement has been made with the Cassels Company, and we are granted the sole use in Pahang, and I trust that there will be some profit gained by licensing to other companies. The success of the process is undoubted and it only remains for us to see if we can work it at a cheap and economical rate. If there were even a moderate capital in hand the Board would take into serious consideration the more active development of the large concession we hold of 100 square miles; for there are many places which have been so far prospected as to warrant further and more vigorous work. Gubau to the north, which you will remember gave splendid results, only needs a moderate amount to open out a mine which even in these days of sensational West Australian mines would be well worth the attention of home investors; and Pangkong to the south was considered by the former manager of the greatest value. Another point is the question of water power, and by the expenditure of capital the whole of the plant of mine and mill of fifty stamps could be worked by water power, and this question will be forced on us sooner or later when our reserves of firewood get exhausted. I need hardly say that there would be a large economy, but only with the expenditure of capital. We were glad to

see Mr. Blamey back after his long and wearying recovery from the effects of the accident to his arm. Mr. Blamey was of great assistance to us while in Australia in various ways. During Mr. Blamey's absence Mr. Phillips was in charge and carrying on the duties in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, and his long experience of the mine and the country have always made his services particularly valuable to the Company. Mr. Jolly, who was employed for many years by the old Company, has been engaged as our engineer, and his local knowledge and acquaintance with the Malay language is very valuable to us. We have not yet taken out a lease for any part of our concession, as we were uncertain as to the direction the lodes would prove to run; we hope, therefore, that the new discoveries will enable us to locate our ground at Jalis and obtain from the state a fifty years' lease similar to that granted to the Rand Company. I shall be glad to hear the remarks of any shareholder present.

Mr. ANDREW JOHNSTON—In last year's account there was no mention of this item "administration" in the accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—No.

Mr. JOHNSTON—Can you give any explanation of why a different system has been adopted in making out the accounts?

The CHAIRMAN—It was thought best to keep these items under one heading; we now show mining, milling, and general expenses in a separate account, the same as the companies at the Cape. It makes no difference. Last year the management was merged in the mining and milling account.

Mr. FRASER SMITH suggested that the discussion would be put in order if some one moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX seconded.

Mr. J. KIRKWOOD—I would call your attention to paragraph 7 of the report. You state there, during the year 9,374 tons of ore were mined and milled, yielding 5,438 ounces of gold. Also 645 tons of headings, being the ore left by the old Chinese working, yielding 66 ounces of gold, making a total output of 5,554 ounces, for which you realized \$183,278.29. That gives the value of the gold as \$33 per ounce, which, taking a fair rate according to the exchange at present, gives £3 10s. per ounce. The price of standard gold is £3 17s. 6d.; so that means that we are losing 10 per cent. on our total output. Is there anything the matter with the grade of ore, or how do you sell it?

The CHAIRMAN—The price of what is reckoned pure gold is £3 17s. 9d.; our average is £3 12s. or £3 13s. 6d., which is considered a good quality of gold. There is, as you may know, a good deal of silver in our gold.

Mr. KIRKWOOD—But you say £3 10s. in your report. Would it not be better to refine our gold at the mines?

The CHAIRMAN—It requires a skilled assayer to refine gold, and Mr. Blamey has stated that as soon as the assayer arrives at the mines all gold turned out may be refined there.

Mr. KIRKWOOD—Under the heading of Assets—accounts receivable, I see you set down "Part value of gold, August crushing, \$15,287; Sept., \$10,252; Balance due, June crushing, \$309,14; July, \$306,25." What is the meaning of these words "part value"? If it is not the whole, where are the other parts? One looks in vain for them in the report, and it would be interesting to know what the parts are.

The CHAIRMAN—When our gold is received at Singapore from the mine we get advances upon it from the Bank; the Bank sends the gold to London and then it is sold there to the Mint. When the accounts of the sales come back, the balances are put to our credit. What you see in the accounts for June and July are the balances of the advances we had previously received for those two months.

Mr. KIRKWOOD—Would it not be better to state the whole amount given us?

The CHAIRMAN—We don't know what the value of the gold is going to be. We generally get about 90 per cent. in advance.

Mr. KIRKWOOD—With regard to the working account, I make it that we have spent \$195,000 during the past year to produce \$189,000 worth of gold, or, in other words, it costs us \$19.50 for every \$19 worth of gold made. Of course, I do not include value of stores and opium. I also understand that we have had excessive ex-

penses: "Head Office, \$6,260; Legal expenses, \$3,251; Director's fees, \$2,500," or a total of \$12,000. It therefore costs us \$1.000 per month to run the concern here, which seems to me to be a loss of 3 per cent. on the whole capital.

The CHAIRMAN—Have you included in your calculations the amount written off? If you deduct the \$45,000 it makes a great deal of difference.

Mr. KIRKWOOD—But surely these expenses are very heavy. We have altogether for lawyers \$3,600.

The CHAIRMAN—We had a good deal of expense over the London Company; That is unusual expense. I hope it will not happen again.

Mr. KIRKWOOD—I hope not. Thanks.

Mr. R. COOKE—Don't you think \$45,000 is a great deal to write off in a Company where the capital is only \$220,000? I think it is very excessive. I should not like to see the Dook Company, for instance, write off 20 per cent. of the capital for depreciation. (Hear, hear). I should think something was going very much wrong if that were done. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I hoped I had explained all this in my speech. Although we made a profit of \$45,000, we have not had that in hand. I certainly would not have thought of applying it, if it had been hard cash in hand, to write down any portion of our property. That money has simply been spent in order to provide new machinery and to pay off old debts. It is simply a book entry in order to account for the profit we have made. We have not got cash in hand, but we thought we should apply this profit to what we ought to have had sufficient capital for in the first instance.

Mr. WILCOX—You mean that this sum of \$45,000 has been spent on capital account really.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. COOKE—I notice you wrote off only \$10,000 last year. Why should you write off so much this year?

The CHAIRMAN—Because we made \$45,000 instead of \$25,000.

Mr. COOKE—Well, we shareholders are beginning to get anxious for dividends. I have been a shareholder for a long time. I think a Company like this should begin to pay dividends to the shareholders. (Hear, hear). You almost promised as much last year, and you promised a better output; and we were led to believe that all this money would not be expended—at least, not in the way it has been. If we are to go on spending money like this for new machinery and cyanide processes, when are we to expect dividends?

The CHAIRMAN—You can't get money unless you spend some.

Mr. COOKE—Yes; but we are spending it unreasonably.

The CHAIRMAN—We have certainly made an improvement—I think you will admit that—in the cost of working. We have been very unfortunate. We are dealing with 11 dwts. against 17 dwts. last year. If we had had the same quality of ore as last year we would have come before you with a nice balance.

Mr. COOKE—Why spend money on new machinery if you are not earning money?

The CHAIRMAN—Because I think the adoption of the cyanide process will be our salvation. We have assets in the shape of tailings and concentrates lying on the ground and not producing you anything. Surely if it is put before you that you will get 70 or 80 where you were getting only 17, 18, or 20 thousand, you will not object.

Mr. COOKE—I understood the cyanide process was not to be adopted without the sanction of the shareholders. I do not recollect the shareholders having sanctioned this spending of money for the cyanide process. I think before you launched out into this \$12,000 or whatever it is, we should have been told about it. You called a meeting first of all to sanction this, and it was not sanctioned, and you ought to have called a meeting afterwards before adopting it. I do not recollect a meeting being called to sanction this.

Mr. LEWIS—The object of the first meeting called was to find out whether we should make a call to establish the cyanide process. Except as regards the call it was left to the discretion of the directors to deal with it.

The CHAIRMAN—One reason, if you will remember, why that meeting was called—I distinctly stated the object at the time; it would never have been called at all and the shareholders

would not have been asked their opinion if it had been merely a question of introducing the cyanide process, because the directors could have taken the responsibility of that; but at that time, we were not agreed amongst ourselves about going on with the process, because if we did then it meant making a call. The feeling of the meeting was decidedly in favour of the process, but it was decidedly against having a call to pay for it. So the ordering of the plant was abandoned for the moment; but directly we had sufficient money in hand to purchase it, and we were all agreed on the Board, then we ordered it.

Capt. BURNIE—I distinctly remember the feeling of the meeting was against the cyanide process.

The CHAIRMAN—My idea is, it was not so. What is your idea, Mr. Gillies?

Mr. GILLIES—I think you will find it recorded in the minutes. My recollection of the meeting is that it was in favour of the cyanide process if no call were required.

The CHAIRMAN—Your own resolution, Mr. Cooke, at that meeting—the resolution that was carried—was that "Action be postponed, both in regard to the cyanide process and the question of a further call." I do not see anything about a further meeting to be called to consider the question.

Mr. COOKE—As that resolution was proposed and passed we should have been notified when you intended to adopt the cyanide process. You should have asked our opinion. (Applause.)

Captain TILLET—The question I have to ask is this—Why is no mention made in the report and balance sheet of the liability for preference shares?—(Hear, hear, and applause.) If you turn to page 12 of the memorandum and articles of association, paragraph 6, you will see "The holders of the said preference shares shall be entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum." Now, again, we will turn up page 26, and in paragraph 137 you will see:—"First—To the payment of a preferential dividend at the rate of 12 per centum on the nominal amount of the said preference shares, so that any deficiency in such percentage of dividend for which the profits of one year may be insufficient to provide shall be made good out of the profits of any subsequent year." Consequently, we are getting on to have three years' dividends to pay at the rate of 12 per cent. on these preference shares; and that is what I maintain should have been shown as a liability. (Applause.) I do not consider this is the proper way to make up a balance sheet. (Applause.) I will call attention to another inconsistency. We see in your own report, paragraph 4, "New prospecting shafts and drives have been made resulting in very promising discoveries. To the south of the mine a new reef has been found which is now being tested by a drive from the lower levels." And then if you turn over the leaf you will find:—"The Board regret that during the past year no prospecting has been done on the Company's concession, owing to lack of funds, all profits having been spent on new machinery, and on what should be capital expenditure." You practically contradict yourself.

The CHAIRMAN—We mean no prospecting outside the Jalis mine. That is understood.

Capt. TILLET—At any rate, there is an inconsistency there, and I maintain that the balance sheet is not correct in leaving out that liability for preference shares. I for one will not support the adoption of the report. (Applause.)

Mr. FRASER SMITH—It is with infinite regret I have to rise to propose a vote of no confidence in the Chairman and directors of this Company, and I will, as briefly as possible, give you my reasons for asking you to support me in carrying this amendment to the resolution that this report be adopted. If there is a man in this room who knows anything about accounts, who has even the elementary knowledge of a common clerk, he has only to read this balance sheet once to see what a piece of meretricious rubbish it is. Mr. Orange has favoured you—why he did so heaven only knows; I don't—with a long report from the manager full of technical terms which are not understood by us, and he has read all these pages of his own supplementing the most idiotic report I have ever seen in Hongkong, signed by Mr. James Orange. I have listened to what Mr. Cooke and Capt.

Tillett have said, and every word they have said is perfectly accurate; you can't refute them. In fact, the affairs of this Company seem to have been grossly mismanaged, and you give us the same fulsome, idiotic phrases about stock, &c. We have put a lot of money into this Company for years and we now want a dividend and it is the fault of the Directorate we have not had a dividend. I do not hesitate to say it. The cost of mining and milling is set down at \$39,000; against an output of what? And Mr. Orange, our Chairman, has the audacity to come here and make a comparison between mining in the Straits Settlements and mining at the Cape! Sundry charges, insurance, freights, &c., \$4,549; what is it for? No explanation; you don't know! Head office expenses, \$6,000. I guess I could run this show at \$100 a month, and run it as well as it is now. If we are contributing for the benefit of anybody it would be just as well to let us know. Many of us would resign our shares and throw it up if you are to go on in this way. \$3,521 in legal expenses for a paltry Company like this! What for? Surely it was your business to give an explanation of what this large sum was expended for.

The CHAIRMAN—It was in connection with the settlement of the London Company. If you want details you can come to the office.

Mr. FRASER SMITH—I don't want to come to the office. I want an explanation here. Punjom office, \$2,012! What is that for? You have an office here and one at Punjom. The amount of expenses on the debit side of the balance sheet prohibit any possibility of a profit. What is it for? Let us see what they do. You can't tell us. Administration, \$39,352. You have given a sort of explanation of what that means; but I do not think any public accountant—and I am sorry for the auditors—would have allowed that huge sum to go in under the head of administration, which absolutely means nothing. Another thing I am sorry to have to call your attention to. It has been admitted in all public companies in Hongkong that unless where there were extraordinary circumstances the directors should not take fees if the business is not remunerative. I see \$2,500 put down as directors' fees. Well, I have the honour of being acquainted with many of them, and two or three, I should say, would be perfectly sorry to take fees after I have called attention to it. I think I am perfectly accurate in saying that in all public companies, unless they are paying, the directors have abstained rigidly from taking fees; and it is public gossip in the town that some of the directors of this Company were of opinion that the fees should be increased. For what? Your services no doubt may have been valuable; but I do not see it. When you can send out accounts any man understands and let us know how the money is going then you will be entitled to it—the labourer is worthy of his hire—but I emphatically protest against this item going into the accounts. The writing off which Mr. Cooke has so ably called your attention to is absurd. Is your new machinery less valuable or has your property depreciated? Surely not. It reflects upon you. This show has been muddled from the beginning to now and it has been muddled long enough, and for that reason I propose a vote of no confidence in the present Chairman and Directors.

Mr. COOKE—I am sorry to say I have to second Mr. Fraser Smith's proposal—(applause)—for I consider what he has said is quite true. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I am certainly not going to make a defence for myself or the Board. I hope we have sufficient friends here to speak for us all. I do not happen to have much experience of Boards in this Colony, but I know we have met very many times and given a great deal of our time, which Mr. Fraser Smith has been pleased to say is of no value. I myself and Mr. Gillies especially have worked for years and years for no remuneration, and when the new Company was formed we determined we would not do it in future. The labourer is worthy of his hire. The preference shares is a matter of book-keeping, and if it is so wrong our auditors might have pointed it out for us. I do not think it is wrong. It is a debt, but it is only a debt against any money we may have in hand, and when we get money in hand it will be paid.

Capt. TILLET—It is a liability and it is a growing liability, and as such it ought to be shown. Its omission makes the accounts incorrect.

The CHAIRMAN—It is the same thing with regard to writing off from the profits. I thought I had explained that although we made a profit out of the working account, we thought it right to write it off. I have nothing further to say except to put the amendment of Mr. Fraser Smith, seconded by Mr. Cooke, to the meeting. Have you got it in writing?

Mr. FRASER SMITH—Vote of no confidence is enough.

The CHAIRMAN—That there should be a vote of no confidence in the Chairman and Directorate of this Company?

Mr. FRASER SMITH—Yes.

Upon a vote being taken 13 voted for the amendment and 7 against.

The CHAIRMAN—The vote of no confidence is carried. I will now put the accounts before you.

Mr. FRASER SMITH—My amendment was against the accounts. The vote of no confidence means that no accounts can be passed.

The CHAIRMAN—Then you will have to put it in writing.

Mr. FRASER SMITH—I will do so. I propose that the meeting be adjourned to take such steps as we may think advisable.

The CHAIRMAN—I will not consent to an adjournment. I will now put the report and accounts to the meeting.

Mr. G. C. COX—Do you accept the vote or do you intend to take a poll?

The CHAIRMAN—This vote of no confidence is purely informal. It has no connection with the business of the meeting.

Mr. FRASER SMITH—It is an amendment to your proposal that the accounts be passed. The vote was plainly worded, and if it means anything it means that the accounts are rejected.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not see it.

Mr. FRASER SMITH—I do not care; it is only your own stupidity which prevents you from seeing it.

A vote was then taken as to whether the report and accounts should be adopted. Four voted in favour, and a large majority against their adoption.

The CHAIRMAN—A poll is demanded by five members, and a ballot will be taken at this office next Monday at 12 o'clock, and the result of the ballot shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the motion was proposed. That concludes the business of the meeting.

The following is the report presented to the meeting:—

The directors beg to submit the accounts for the year ending 30th September, 1894, from which it will be seen that the balance at the credit of working account is \$15,309 20.

The settlement with the Penjom Pahang Company was completed during the past year, and the re-assignment of the property handed over to this Company.

The work carried on at Punjom has been considerable, and particulars have been given in the monthly reports of the Manager. The August shaft was deepened, and new drives opened out at the 200-foot level. The reef was struck from the shaft, but unfortunately though well defined and of a promising nature, it has proved poor in quality up to the present. Drilling is proceeding along the line of the reef to ascertain if better quality be not met, and probably a winze will be sunk to further prove the nature of the lode.

New prospecting shafts and drives have been made, resulting in very promising discoveries. To the south of the mine a new reef has been found, which is now being tested by a drive from the lower levels.

To the north of the mine a new reef has been discovered about 12 feet wide and of very good quality, viz., about one ounce to the ton; this reef will be proved by a crosscut from the 200-foot level drive, and is the most promising discovery yet made at Punjom, and ensures a large supply of good ore in the future.

The new ten-head stamp battery with new boiler has been erected, and has worked very satisfactorily. An additional winding engine was fixed at the August shaft and a 12-inch pump erected in the shaft.

During the year 9,874 tons of ore were mined and milled, yielding 5,488 ounces of gold. Also 645 tons of headings, being the ore left by the old Chinese workings, yielding 66 ounces of gold, making a total output of 5,554 ounces, realizing \$183,278 29.

The board decided to erect cyanide works for the treatment of tailings by the MacArthur Forest process, and a satisfactory agreement has been entered into with the Cassel Gold Extracting Company, whereby this Company with the consent of the resident holds the sole rights for the State of Pahang. A plant was ordered to treat 1,000 tons per month, and is now being erected at Punjom.

The Board regret that during the past year no prospecting has been done on the Company's concession owing to lack of funds, all profits having been spent in new machinery, and on what should be capital expenditure.

Mr. Blamey was absent for ten months from the mine in order to recover from the effects of the accident to his arm, and resumed management in August.

During his absence Mr. Phillips was in charge, and the Board wish to record their opinion of the valuable services rendered by him and ably seconded by the staff of Europeans.

Mr. Blamey, during his vacation, was of great assistance to the Company in Australia, visiting mines and cyanide works, and obtaining valuable information as to plant &c.

Mr. J. H. Lewis was offered and has accepted a seat at the Board.

In accordance with Article 104 Messrs. D. Gillies and Geo. Fenwick retire from the Board, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and W. Gaskell.

JAMES ORANGE, Chairman.

Hongkong, 3rd January, 1895.

BALANCE SHEET, 1st OCTOBER, 1893, TO 30th SEPTEMBER, 1894.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
To cost of estate	152,172.52		
To machinery and plant	46,353.15		
To stores at mines	12,304.94		
To Hongkong Bank, Singapore, fixed deposit	15,000.00		
To main shaft	10,000.00		
To cyanide plant	11,469.11		
To accounts receivable—			
Part value of gold, August crushing	\$15,237.20		
Part value of gold, September crushing	10,252.43		
Balance due, June crushing	\$99.14		
Balance due, July crushing	306.25		
Bonus, China Fire Insurance	215.53		
Sundries	37.50		
	26,908.04		
To buildings	4,287.29		
To suspense account	1,551.56		
To reconstruction Kildah Dam	3,266.85		
To Hongkong Bank, Hongkong	192.67		
To opium	1,773.17		
To live stock	1,333.76		
To office furniture	270.30		
To furniture at mines	737.40		
To petty cash	365.74		
To provisions	865.71		
To sundry debtors	62.30		
	\$288,926.02		

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
By share capital—			
Ordinary shares:			
Authorized 60,000 shares at \$4	\$240,000.00		
Less 590 shares at \$4 unallotted	\$ 3,560.00		
Less 2nd call of 25 cents on 143 shares outstanding	35.75		
Less 3rd call of 50 cents on 874 shares outstanding	437.00		
Less balance 50,110 shares uncalled at 25 cents	14,777.50		
	18,810.25		
Preference shares:			
Authorized capital 30,000 shares at \$1	\$30,000.00		
Less 1,491 shares unallotted	1,491.00		
	28,509.00		
	249,698.75		
By Peking agency	1,774.27		
By Manager at Panjom	4,337.52		
By accounts payable—			
Stores on the way	\$4,401.30		
Legal expenses	331.25		
Due for printing and advertising	939.11		
Directors' and auditors' fees	2,650.00		
Insurance	615.09		
	8,966.75		
By royalty Sultan of Pahang	500.00		
By Syme & Co.	152.44		
By Hongkong Bank, Singapore	8,076.62		
By sundry creditors	110.47		
By balance	15,309.20		
	\$288,926.02		

WORKING ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To cost of mining and milling	89,879.86		
To sundry charges, insurance, freight, &c.	4,519.15		
To head office expenses	6,260.36		
To legal expenses	3,251.97		
To Panjom office and travelling expenses	2,012.81		
To assaying expenses	13.58		
To administration	39,352.74		
To disbursements, Sin Yum	\$221.00		
Less earnings	15.50		
	205.50		
To directors' fees	2,509.00		
To auditors' fees	150.00		
To amount written off—			
Buildings	\$10,000.00		
Main shaft	5.00		
Machinery and plant	16,854.91		
Water wheel	500.00		
Cost of estate	14,350.00		
	46,704.91		
To balance	15,309.20		
	\$210,290.41		

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance from last account	15,005.68		
By gold account	183,278.29		
By interest	669.41		
By sale of concentrates	6,049.68		
By transfer fees	87.00		
By license account	71.00		
By profit on sale stores	1,055.75		
By profit on sale provision	1,418.26		
By profit on sale opium	2,625.34		
	\$210,290.41		

THE EXEMPTION OF MAIL STEAMERS FROM THE SUNDAY LABOUR ORDINANCE.

The following further correspondence has passed between the Government and the Chamber of Commerce with reference to the exemption of mail steamers from the Sunday Labour Ordinance—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 20th November, 1894.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 27th August last I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that a despatch has been received from the Secretary of State in which His Lordship desires the Chamber to be informed that he sees no sufficient reason for allowing any further exemptions from the provisions of the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance, 1891.

His Lordship also requests that it should be pointed out to the Chamber of Commerce that the exemption allowed to certain mail steamers only applies in cases where they are running under time contracts entered into before the coming into operation of that Ordinance and only for so long as those contracts are in force. —I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c., &c.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce
5th January, 1895.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20th November last, No. 2,261, and I am to point out that the Chamber in its letter to you of the 20th August, not 27th August as quoted by you, did not ask that further exemptions from the provisions of the "Sunday Labour Ordinance" should be granted, as you indicate was the reply of the Secretary of State to that letter, but that the provisions of that Ordinance should be enforced without favour against all vessels. It is clear from this that the Secretary of State cannot have understood the request of my Committee. I am therefore instructed to again call your attention to the Committee's letter, the 20th August, and to beg that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to again lay the matter before the Secretary of State for the Colonies. And with reference to the reason advanced by him for the exemption of the mail steamers from the Ordinance above referred to, I am to emphasise the fact that the British mail steamers are quite able to, and do, perform their passages within the specified contract time, without the aid of the exemption gratuitously granted, which concession, as my Committee understand, was given them without solicitation. With reference to the extension of this relief to foreign-owned subsidised steamers, I am to point out that, in my Committee's opinion, relief so granted, on the grounds that foreign mail steamers were under time contracts when the "Sunday Labour Ordinance" was passed, present no sufficient reason for their exemption. In regulating more important Imperial considerations, which may affect foreign countries, for instance, the imposition of Custom duties, it is not usual to take into consideration how the impost will affect the position of the subjects of those countries. If therefore in such major matters no difference is permitted, my Committee urge that none should be shown in lesser regulations, such as this local Ordinance provides, particularly when it is demonstrated that the concession works unfairly against British commerce. Further, I am to point out that there is no provision in the order of the Executive Council of the 31st October, 1893, that the exemption to all mail steamers shall cease upon the termination of their present respective mail contracts, thus leading to the inference that the privilege is indefinite in

duration.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

(Signed) F. HENDERSON.
Secretary.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Hongkong, 7th January, 1895.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 5th instant I am directed to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that a copy of your letter of the 20th August last was duly forwarded to the Secretary of State and that the reference to your letter of the 27th idem was made because it was the last received from the Chamber on the subject of the correspondence.

I am also to point out that paragraph 2 of the Order in Council, published in Notification No. 395 of the 2nd November, 1893, provides explicitly for the cessation of the privilege in question on the termination of existing mail contracts.

A copy of your letter under reply will be forwarded to the Secretary of State as requested. —I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

(Sd.) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c., &c.

THE SUPPLY OF MORPHIA TO THE LATE BARON DE GRANDMAISON.

At the Magistracy yesterday, before Commander Hastings, the case in which Mr. H. G. Stevens, of the Hongkong Dispensary, was fined \$5 for supplying morphia to the late Baron de Grandmaison without a doctor's prescription was reheard.

Mr. Creasy Eweas appeared for the defence and said—I will prove all the facts for my case, but I should like to point out to your Worship what the law is in England and what it was in this colony prior to the passing of the Ordinance of 1893. The law in England with regard to the sale of morphia is governed by the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and morphia comes within the second schedule, under which poisons are dealt with. The only regulation in England with regard to the sale of morphia is that the bottle must be labelled plainly "Morphia—Poison." It is questionable whether this Act was ever in force in this colony; and no previous restrictions obtained here other than labelling the bottle "Poison" as in England. In 1893, in consequence of a practice having sprung up in the colony, very injurious to the interests of the Opium Farmer, of injecting morphia, thus reducing the sale of opium, the Government brought in a Bill "for the suppression of the pernicious practice of injecting morphia by unqualified persons." The preamble says, "Whereas it is desirable to forbid, in this colony, the practice of injecting morphia except in cases where such treatment has been prescribed by some duly qualified medical practitioner, and to make provision for effectually suppressing such practice," and section 4 says, "Any person who shall, except in cases where morphia has been prescribed by some duly qualified medical practitioner, furnish morphia to any persons." I need not read any more of the section. So it appears from this that no person, whether he is a chemist or not, shall furnish morphia unless it has been prescribed by a duly qualified medical practitioner. It does not, you will observe, say "prescribed in writing." Now, I hold that the Ordinance was intended to prevent the indiscriminate sale of morphia, because it would injure the Opium Farmer, and to provide that it should only be supplied to people having medical advice. In this instance M. de Grandmaison came to the Dispensary late at night on Christmas Eve, accompanied by Mr. Potts, and stated that he was in great pain, that he had been in the habit, under medical advice, of taking morphia, that he had left his syringe and morphia at Saigon, and that he wanted a supply. Mr. Stevens at first declined to supply him, but seeing the man was in great pain gave the morphia to him on the condition that it should be administered by a medical man. He went further than was necessary under the Ordinance. But I would point out that if a medical man administers the morphia it must be prescribed, and, therefore, Mr. Stevens carried out not only the spirit of the Ordinance, which was not meant to deal with

cases of this kind but to prevent the indiscriminate sale of morphine, but the actual letter of the law by insisting upon the morphine being administered by a medical man. Dr. Stedman was telephoned for, and administered the first dose out of the bottle of morphine solution supplied. I will now proceed to call the evidence.

Mr. A. C. H. Potts, clerk, Canton, stated—I was acquainted with the late Baron de Grandmaison. I had known him for ten days. I was with him on Monday night, 24th December. We called at Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co. about midnight. He said he was in such pain that he must have some morphia. I asked him why he must get it, and he replied because he was suffering from his kidney. He said nothing about a doctor, but said he had been in the habit of taking it and had left his syringe in Saigon. We saw Mr. Stevens at the Dispensary. Mr. Stevens refused to supply the Baron with morphia. The latter then explained he had been in the habit of using it himself. Then Mr. Stevens said it was contrary to law to give morphia unless it was prescribed by a doctor. The Baron said he would rather have a doctor to administer it. Mr. Stevens gave us the telephone numbers of Drs. Hartigan and Stedman. Deceased was suffering great pain, so much so that he could not walk from Watson's to the Hotel. We went to the telephone office in the Hotel. I first telephoned Dr. Hartigan, who was out. I then telephoned Dr. Stedman, who replied he would come down immediately. I saw the Baron to his room and left him, because he said there was no use my waiting for the Doctor to arrive.

Dr. Stedman was next called, and upon entering the witness box he said he refused to be sworn in a criminal case unless he got his fees.

Mr. Ewens—I submit Dr. Stedman cannot refuse to give evidence in a criminal case.

His Worship asked Mr. Ewens to prove service of the subpoena upon Dr. Stedman.

Dr. Stedman—As a matter of fact, the constable did not serve the subpoena upon me. He left it in my room, but did not serve it on me personally.

His Worship (to Mr. Ewens)—Dr. Stedman does not wish you to prove service. (To Dr. Stedman). This is a criminal case, and you must give evidence if you are subpoenaed.

Dr. Stedman said—On the morning of Christmas day, early, I received a telephone message from the Hongkong Hotel for Baron Something or other. I did not catch the name. I went to the Hotel and saw Baron de Grandmaison. He was in bed. He said he was in pain. I saw a small bottle standing on a chest near the bed. I believe it was wrapped up. It was similar to that now produced. I administered an injection from that bottle to the deceased. I believe it was the first time the bottle had been opened.

By His Worship—I did not give an order for the morphia to be supplied to the deceased from the Dispensary on the morning of the 25th December. I used the morphia I found there. I took morphia down with me.

Mr. Ewens—My contention is, first of all, you must look at the preamble of the Ordinance and consider what the objects of the Ordinance are, and next you must take the section and put a reasonable construction upon it. It was never intended to interfere with the discretion of the chemist in the exercise of his profession. He would not sell morphia to a person who was not qualified to use it. M. de Grandmaison had been in the habit of taking morphia for a certain complaint from time to time and well knew what he was about. He was in great pain at the time; and if the chemist had refused to supply the morphia he might have been severely blamed. If a man is in pain he wants the morphia administered at once; and M. de Grandmaison got it only on condition that it was administered by a doctor. No useful purpose could be served in insisting on a prosecution like this. Surely the public have rights in the matter to be considered. It would be very inconvenient if a man wanted to get medicine urgently, and before he got it he had first to get an order from a doctor, and then, in the middle of the night, had to get a doctor to administer it. Not only did Mr. Stevens act with common humanity, but he fulfilled the letter of the law, because he gave it only on the condition that it should be administered by a medical man. It cannot, therefore, be argued that it was not prescribed by a medical man. When a doctor administers the morphia he

must be taken as having prescribed it within the meaning of the Ordinance.

His Worship—Nobody knows better than yourself, Mr. Ewens, that your position is untenable. Mr. Potts had only known the Baron de Grandmaison ten days and could not say morphia had been prescribed for the deceased; he could only tell us that the Baron de Grandmaison told him he had left his morphia behind. This is the lowest Criminal court in the colony, and if you are not satisfied with my decision you can appeal. I must administer the law as I find it.

Sentence confirmed.

STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 8th instant a meeting of shareholders in the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, was held at the office of Mr. R. Francis, Shanghai, to consider the circular issued by the agent of the Company under date 24th ultimo. Upon the motion of Mr. E. J. Hogg, seconded by Mr. A. Burman, Mr. R. Francis was voted to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said—Gentlemen, I suppose you have all received a circular dated the 24th of December from the Agent of the Straits Insurance Company, mentioning an offer from the Commercial Union Insurance Company, and this meeting has been called to afford the shareholders in Shanghai an opportunity of expressing their ideas upon the subject, and whether they wish the Company wound up, or whatever step they would like to take in the matter, and I think, perhaps, in the first instance, I had better ask Mr. Dudgeon if he can supplement the information given in the circular.

Mr. C. J. DUDGEON—Well, gentlemen, as this meeting is called in consequence of the circular which I sent out to the shareholders in Shanghai, I think it desirable that I should explain what I know of the matter and explain my action. When I knew that there was a telegram received in Shanghai—and I may say it was a thoroughly authoritative telegram—to the effect such as I published to you, and when I knew that a telegram had been received in Hongkong, and also, I suppose, in Singapore, I considered it my duty, for the protection of the interests of shareholders in Shanghai, and to prevent them from being caught, as I may say, in a sheer gamble, to give them information of the fact. That I conceived to be my duty in the circumstances, and I did it on my own responsibility. Since then I have received a telegram from Singapore saying that the offer is denied, but, I understand, at the same time—in fact I know—that telegrams have been passing between Shanghai and London, which point to the offer being still in full force, so I did not deem it necessary to sent out another circular to explain the position to the shareholders. I know no more of the offer than is contained in my circular and can give you no more particulars. If there are any questions you may like to ask which may throw any light on the matter I am quite prepared to answer them.

Mr. Hogg—Do I distinctly understand, Mr. Dudgeon, that the head office denies an offer has been made?

Mr. DUDGEON—Yes.

Mr. Hogg—I am myself aware an offer has been made and I believe this offer, in some shape or way, is still outstanding. Whether you can throw any light on or correct the view which I take of the telegram which is embodied in your circular I do not know, but I think the meeting would feel obliged if you could say whether you agree to the interpretation which I have put upon it, and which I take to mean that there is a cash offer of \$25; that the names of the liquidators are to be approved by the Commercial Union; and the balance of the assets after the expenses of the liquidation are paid are to be divided amongst the shareholders. It seems to me that is something like what might be expected, and I think such an offer as that would commend itself to all shareholders. From what I have learned of the position of things now, the Straits Insurance Company is a house divided against itself and the inevitable result is likely to follow unless shareholders take advantage of the position in which they now find themselves, which is a satisfactory position. The position of the assets at the end of 1893 was not bad. It is to be presumed that they have somewhat further im-

proved now. I think Shanghai has learned that the Commercial Union is an honourable company with whom we can deal satisfactorily and fairly. We need not apprehend that they will attempt to take any improper advantage of us, and that we may deal fairly with them, and if this offer is accepted I think, in the end, after such discussion as the shareholders present here may deem desirable, we may somehow or other form some committee which would endeavour to deal with the shareholders at other places, so that we might be able to enforce the liquidation of the Company on satisfactory terms. It looks to me extremely unsatisfactory that the head office, or, it is inexplicable anyhow, that the head office denies the offer has been made. There must be something wrong when such a thing as this can happen. I should like to ask Mr. Dudgeon if he can, and is willing to, inform us something as to the position of the Company as regards its management, its direction, and its staff. I should like to ask Mr. Dudgeon if he will kindly tell us if Mr. Sohst is now in any way associated with the Board of Directors in the recent course of action which has brought about the existing state of affairs in the Company. His was a name on the Board which gave us confidence in the direction. I think those who know Mr. Sohst will bear me out in that statement. (Hear, hear.) In the Board as it now exists, if Mr. Sohst is not there still, I, for myself, think that we cannot have a shred of confidence. (Hear, hear.) So far for headquarters. I should like to ask Mr. Dudgeon what is the state of affairs in London. Who is managing now in London? I have heard that the Committee, the Underwriter, and the Deputy-Underwriter have resigned, have left the Company, and that the Underwriter will probably take away a very considerable amount of business. I should like to know if these are facts or not. One other question I should like to ask is with reference to this circular. It is a little bit difficult to make it out. I should like to ask if there is anything beyond this circular, is it otherwise or is it unconditional? If Mr. Dudgeon will kindly give us information on these points I think I will ask you, gentlemen, to join in recognising the principle upon which we shall act. Would it not be a good thing to accept a principle that we should liquidate upon some such terms as the interpretation I have put upon the circular?

A Shareholder—Certainly.

Mr. Hogg—I will defer for a moment that proposition to see if anything more advisable than that may arise from anything Mr. Dudgeon may have to tell us.

Mr. DUDGEON—Mr. Hogg has asked me a long series of questions, and I am afraid I do not altogether remember the sequence of them. The first question I remember was—What is the interpretation of the circular? I have already stated I know no more about the circular than you do yourselves, and it is literally the telegram which was received. I may point out that the telegram said that the offer was to the shareholders and an offer of \$25 cash. That seems to me to mean it was a cash offer. Probably the interpretation which Mr. Hogg has put upon the telegram is the correct one, and any surplus would be divided amongst the shareholders; but, as to that, I have no authority to state, and I know nothing about it. Mr. Hogg made an enquiry whether it was an unconditional offer. The offer was unconditional, or rather, I should say, there was a condition attached to it, that was that, during the negotiations between the Commercial Union and the Straits Company, the business of the Company should be carried on, on the "ordinary business lines." I think were the words. Mr. Hogg has referred to Mr. Sohst. Mr. Sohst, I may mention, left Singapore for a run home some six or seven months ago, and in consequence of leaving Singapore he resigned the direction of the Company, so consequently he cannot be connected with the management of the Company at the present time in any way whatever. Mr. Hogg, I think, further referred to events which he had heard had taken place in London, and he is there correct in saying that the London Committee have resigned and the Underwriter and Deputy-Underwriter also. I may also mention that Mr. Crawford Kerr, who was very long connected with the Company, was dismissed, and these resignations occurred subsequent to and almost in consequence of that fact. Mr. Hogg asked me who is managing in London now. The Chairman of the Company, Mr. John

ston, has gone home. I understand, to take the management in London.

Mr. Hogg—Who is Mr. Johnston?

Mr. DUDGEON—He is a partner in Guthrie & Co.

Mr. BURMAN—He is a man who is qualified by training, is he not?

Mr. DUDGEON—I do not know. His is one of the oldest firms in Singapore.

Mr. M. A. SOPHER—I understand that one of the suggestions Mr. Hogg made was that we should put ourselves in communication with the other shareholders in Hongkong or other places in order to protect ourselves. Such a course I think would be advisable. We are obliged to Mr. Dudgeon for sending out that circular. I am sure he went out of his way in our interest, and not every Agent, perhaps, might have cared to send that out. From what you have heard from Mr. Dudgeon and what the circular tells us, it appears to me there is no doubt such an offer was made. It is not a question of the offer, but a question of the head office denying the thing. Why should they withhold such information from us? To my mind the thing has come to such a pass that we must protect our interests. The only way is to put ourselves in communication with other shareholders in other places, and I think we should depute a gentleman to act for us in Singapore, to attend meetings and to vote for us and look after our interests. I have great pleasure in supporting what Mr. Hogg has said.

Mr. I. R. MICHAEL—I myself received a telegram in December last from Hongkong saying the Commercial Union Company of London offered to buy the Straits Insurance Company at \$30. That morning the shares in Hongkong were quoted at \$20 and immediately jumped up to \$25. I believe many shares sold in Hongkong at \$25. I tried to sell on the 1st of January at \$25 and they were refused. There must be some reason for that sort of thing.

Mr. BURMAN—This morning I jotted down a few crude ideas in regard to a resolution, but I shall be very glad to supplement it by any suggestions which may be made or incorporate any amendment from shareholders present. The resolution is—“That we communicate with our friends in Hongkong, Japan, and the ports, expressing our willingness to co-operate with any bodies of shareholders in the Straits Marine Insurance Company who are desirous of the liquidation of the Company, and that shareholders resident at any point where separate action is not taken be invited to join with us in this movement.”

Mr. MICHAEL seconded.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. F. ANDERSON—I beg to propose—“That this meeting is unanimously of opinion that the offer made by the Commercial Union Insurance Company, as interpreted by Mr. Hogg, in his remarks, be accepted.”

Mr. BURMAN—I have very great pleasure in seconding that and at the same time I should like to express an opinion that for my part I am desirous that those connected with the management of the Company, as at present existing, should not have a preponderating influence in the liquidation. I shall be glad to hear an expression of opinion from the gentlemen present.

Mr. ANDERSON—With regard to Mr. Burman's addition, I think that the offer of the Commercial Union Insurance Company stipulates that the liquidators will be agreeable to them, or words to that effect, and I think that we may leave the question of the selection of liquidators to be settled afterwards.

Mr. JACQUES—It appears to me this resolution is premature. Is it not? No real offer has been made that we know of. Mr. Dudgeon says it is denied.

Mr. Hogg—It is denied by the head office, but I have reason to believe an offer has been made, and that is the extraordinary situation which makes us so dissatisfied.

Mr. JACQUES—In the meantime we are in the dark.

Mr. Hogg—I do not think we are in the dark. There may be an endeavour on the part of the head office to keep us in the dark, but I do not think we are in the dark.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution and it was adopted *unanimously*.

Upon the motion of Mr. JACQUES, seconded by Mr. MICHAEL, it was unanimously agreed—“That Messrs. Hogg, Burman, Sopher, and F.

Anderson be appointed as a committee to carry out the objects of this meeting, with power to add to their number.”

The proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding.—N. C. Daily News.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The seventh Club race was sailed on the 6th inst. in a strong north-easterly wind and *Erica* again showed her fine weatherly qualities and won (subject to protest) after a hard tussle with the *Dart*. The latter boat seems to be fully keeping up her reputation in the hands of Dr. Lawson.

Course.—From the Submarine Mining Pier, Wellington Barracks, round a mark, boat off Cow-e-chow and No. 1 Dock Buoy (leaving both to starboard); 14 miles.

STARTERS: FIRST CLASS.

Name.	Owner.	Rating.
<i>Petrel</i>	R.A.	1.4
<i>Payne</i>	R.E.	1.5
<i>Dart</i>	Dr. Lawson	1.5
<i>Stella</i>	Capt. Stirling, A.D.C.	1.5
<i>Erica</i>	Mr. A. Denison	1.3

SECOND CLASS.

<i>She</i>	Mr. C. H. Gale
<i>Elfin</i>	Mr. G. P. Lammert
<i>Kitten</i>	Capt. Murray, A.D.C.

There was a hard north-easter at the start and two reefs were tied down on all except *Erica*, which carried full sail. *Ladybird* did not start. *Stella* timed her start beautifully and got away first with a good lead. There was a hot flood tide under them on the run to Cow-e-chow and the fleet were making good time over the ground. The wind was aft and two jibes were required before making the Cow-e-chow mark. *Dart* was steering rather wildly off the wind and perhaps her new helmsman is not yet quite accustomed to her ways.

The mark-boat was rounded in the following order, *Stella*, *Payne*, *Dart*, *Petrel*, *Erica*. On hauling by the wind *Payne* worked the Hongkong shore; the remainder made a long leg towards Stonecutters. *Dart* going round the North of that island, but there was little to choose between *Dart*, *Payne*, and *Erica* at Kowloon Point, near which *Petrel* and *Payne* shook out a reef. Some interesting cross-tacking ensued, during which *Petrel* daringly stood in shore of the submerged wall near Blackhead's Point and by doing so passed *Stella* and *Payne*. *Dart* stood out in the full strength of the tide, and lost ground in consequence. *Erica* rounded the No. 1 Dock Buoy with a lead of perhaps two minutes over *Dart*, and after a quick run home with spinnakers set to port, the line was crossed as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Erica</i>	2	15	34
<i>Dart</i>	2	16	19
<i>Petrel</i>	2	18	20
<i>Payne</i>	2	18	51
<i>Stella</i>	2	25	07

SECOND CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.
<i>She</i>	2	43	52
<i>Elfin</i>	2	44	59
<i>Kitten</i>	not timed		

Dart protests against *Erica* for an infringement of the rule of the race.

CRICKET.

THE CLUB v. THE GARRISON.

This is always one of the most interesting fixtures of the Cricket Club and a certain amount of additional interest attached to it in the present instance from the fact that it was the first game played here under this title since the advent of the Rifle Brigade. In the absence of an interport match the meetings between the Civilians and the Services must always remain the *piece de resistance* of the Cricket Club's list of fixtures and as a consequence the success or non-success of a season from a sporting point of view must always depend in great measure upon a certain equilibrium of strength between these high contracting parties. Upon the occasion under notice Dame Fortune inclined her balance by the narrow majority of one run on the first innings in favour of the Club, but it is only fair to recognize that but for the existence of a local rule rendered necessary by the exigencies of local conditions, the game might have been described as a level draw. The Club was far from being represented by its strongest team, Lawson (unfortunately

on the sick list), Leach, Firth, F. Maitland and others being unavoidably absent; whilst on the side of the Military more than one improvement might have been made under more propitious circumstances. One pleasing feature of the game was the keenness and excellence (with one or two exceptions) of the fielding. Thresher being quite brilliant in the out field, and Reade and Corporal Fraser always to be relied upon for the Garrison, whilst Garde kept wicket in excellent style for the Club. It is difficult to account for what we can only describe as the collapse of the batting on both sides in the first innings, the wicket being an excellent one—though to use a hackneyed expression it gave the bowlers some assistance—and the other conditions being favourable to high scoring. We can only put it down as one of the strange chances of the game, for in the second innings, when certainly no improvement had taken place in the wicket, several of the batsmen batted in excellent form, Sanderson playing exceedingly well for 83, as far as we saw without a chance, whilst Sergt. Burton, Reade, and Thresher made substantial contributions to the score, the partnership of the latter pair putting on over fifty runs at a very critical period of the game. This was for the Garrison. On the Club's side Darby played in quite his best form for 71, not out, whilst Garde and Maitland played very careful and useful cricket at a time when it was possible for the Club to lose the match. Private Lees bowled most successfully for the Garrison, taking 8 wickets in the two innings for a trifle over 10 runs a piece; whilst Watson was the only bowler who can be described as successful for the Club, with 7 wickets for 68, a very good performance. It is to be regretted that two very bad decisions were given by the umpires in the course of the game, fortunately one in the disfavour of each side, and curiously enough each of them almost an exact counterpart of the other. It may not be out of place to suggest that out here where the umpires are frequently somewhat inexperienced in nice points of the game bowlers should be a little extra scrupulous in appealing in doubtful or more than doubtful cases. By the courtesy of Colonel St. Paul and the officers of the Rifle Brigade the band of the Regiment played a pleasing selection of music during the afternoon of the second day.

GARRISON.

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
Lt. Campbell, H.K.R. c Darby, b		17	b Watson
Maitland		4	not out
Ser. Major Reade, c Elliott, b		28	
Watson		8	c Maitland, b Darby
Sergt. Burton, R.B. lbw, b Watson		8	not out
Lt. Thresher, R.B., b Watson		16	
Lt. Anderson, H.K.R., b Maitland		0	
Corpl. Fraser, M.S.C., b Watson		11	b Watson
Rev. G. Vallings, b Darby		20	run out
Col. Clarke, c Shelford, b Darby		12	b Watson
Lt. Sanderson, R.B., c Maitland		84	
b Shelford		4	b Maitland
Lt. Percival, R.B., not out		0	
Pte. Lee, R.B., b Shelford		0	
Extras		3	Extras
		67	101

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Over.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
First Innings.					
Watson	15	5	27	—	4
Elliott	6	1	17	—	—
Maitland	5	2	15	—	2
Darby	7	1	21	—	2
Shelford	3.2	1	4	—	—
Second Innings.					
Watson	23	11	43	—	3
Maitland	9	—	31	—	1
Elliott	14	4	34	—	—
Darby	11	2	47	—	1
Shelford	5	1	15	—	—
E. F. Lammert	7	3	14	—	—

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
T. S. Smith, b Lee		11	b Lee
A. S. Anton, b Lee		4	b Lee
E. C. Ellis, lbw, b Vallings		18	lbw, b Lee
R. B. Garde, R.N., c Reade, b		6	not out
Vallings		7	not out
W. C. Morcam, R.N., c Reade, b		30	b Lee
Vallings		16	
E. W. Maitland, b Vallings		1	
H. M. Elliott, c Percival, b Val-		1	
lings		13	not out
S. L. Darby, lbw, b Lee		0	
J. G. Watson, b Lee		0	
R. F. Lamert, not out		4	
Extras		4	
		88	135

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Over.	Mds.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wkts.
First Innings.					
Private Lee	28	8	30	—	4
Rev. Vallings	22.2	6	51	—	6
Second Innings.					
Rev. Vallings	17	6	30	—	—
Private Lee	26	6	54	—	4
Cpl. Fraser	9	1	37	—	—

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP COMPETITION.

Mr. J. G. T. Buckle put in a most excellent second round in this competition in the Happy Valley on the 5th inst. and this with his handicaps enabled him easily to secure the Captain's Cup. He was unfortunate in not having entered for the Sweep, which thus falls to Mr. Gershom Stewart. The returns, taken as a whole, were not up to the usual standard, and we hope to see a great improvement in the number of entries at the end of this week, when the MacEwen Cup will be played for. Results:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Mr. J. G. T. Buckle.....	101	24	77
Mr. Clement Palmer.....	93	12	81
Mr. Gershom Stewart.....	91	9	82
Mr. C. H. Grace.....	104	18	86
Mr. J. Hastings.....	106	20	86
SWEEP.			
Mr. Gershom Stewart.....	91	9	82
Mr. C. H. Grace.....	104	18	86
Captain Rumsey.....	96	9	87

Remainder over 90 or no return.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

SHORT RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.

There was a very fair attendance on Saturday, several new members putting in an appearance although the day was not very inviting. The Cup was won by Mr. Stewart and the Spoons by Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Rutter, Captain Palmer, and Inspector Duncan. The following are the best scores:—

Name.	200	300	To	H'cap	G.
yards.	yards.	tal.	points.	total.	
Mr. W. Stewart.....	31	25	56	8.....	64
Mr. Shepherd.....	31	30	61	nil.....	61
Mr. Rutter.....	27	22	49	12.....	61
Capt. Palmer, O.S.D.....	27	24	51	6.....	57
Inspector Duncan.....	31	25	56	nil.....	56
Petty Officer Goodger.....	27	20	47	9.....	56
Mr. W. M. Deas.....	24	22	46	10.....	56
Mr. Watson.....	31	22	53	nil.....	53
Lt. Hutchinson, R.N.R.....	29	19	48	4.....	52
Lt. C. B. Staveley, R.B.....	28	18	46	6.....	52
Mr. Rosevere, E.N.....	22	21	43	8.....	51

AMOY RACES.

SECOND DAY, 8th January.

COMPRADORES' CUP; presented; value \$100; 2nd pony \$25; for Amoy subscription griffins of this season; winner of one race 7lbs. extra, of two or more 10lbs. extra; previous non-starters 7lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. Seven furlongs.

Mr. Trio's Carabineer, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. Bruce's Bumblepuppy, 10st. 12lb.....	2
Mr. McThorn's Rover, 10st. 12lbs.....	3

Time, 2 min. 02 secs.

CHALLENGE CUP, value \$250; a forced entry for all Amoy and Formosa owned ponies, optional to subscription griffins of this season; half entrance fees to the winner until the Cup is finally won, when the second pony shall receive the half entrance fees; to be won two consecutive meetings by a pony or ponies, the bona fide property of the same owner or owners; weights as per scale; entrance \$10. One mile.

Mr. Dryasdust's Dandy, 10st. 9lbs.....	1
Mr. Bruce's Timekeeper, 10st. 9lbs.....	2
Mr. August's Aristocrat, 11st. 11b.....	3

Time, 2 min. 12 3-5 secs.

VISITORS' CUP; presented; value \$100; for all China ponies; winner of Foochow Cup 7lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. Two miles.

Mr. Dryasdust's Cobweb, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. MacArthur's Steadfast, 10st. 12lbs.....	2
Mr. Barney's Touchstone, 10st. 12lbs.....	3

Time, 4 min. 40 3-5 secs.

CHAASZE CUP; presented; value \$100; 2nd pony \$25; for Amoy subscription griffins of this season; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. McThorn's Wanderer, 10st. 9lbs.....	1
Mr. Ernest's Thug, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. Waffle's Frivolity, 10st. 12lbs.....	3

Time, 2 min. 62 2-5 secs.

EXCHANGE PLATE; presented; value \$125; 2nd pony \$25; for all China ponies; subscription griffins of this season allowed 5lbs.; winners at this meeting 5lbs. extra for each race won; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. Dryasdust's Hard Times, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. Barney's Sassa, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. Hope's Democrat, 10st. 12lbs.....	3

Time, 1 min. 37 2-5 secs.

THE GERMAN CUP; presented; 2nd pony to receive half the entrance fees; for all ponies first raced as griffins at Amoy; weights as per scale, entrance \$5. One mile.

Mr. Boyd's Dundee, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. Thomas' Otter, 10st. 12lbs.....	2
Mr. Dubbullew's Common, 11st. 11b.....	3

Time, 2 min. 16 1-5 secs.

TE MAU-CHIN PLATE; presented; value \$100; 1st pony to receive 75 per cent., 2nd 25 per cent.; for Amoy, Foochow and Formosa owned ponies; griffins at date of entry allowed 5lbs.; winner of a race at this meeting of 1 1/4 miles or over 5lbs. extra, if of two such races 7lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$10. One mile and a half.

Mr. August's Aristocrat, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. Boyd's Dunblane, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. Captain Hope's Firefly, 10st. 12st.....	3

Time, 3 min. 23 secs.

COAST CUP; presented; value \$100; 2nd pony \$25; for Amoy subscription griffins of this season; winners 5lbs. extra for each race won; previous non-starters 7lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. Once round and a distance.

Mr. McThorn's Rover, 10st. 12lb.....	1
Mr. Bruce's Bumblepuppy, 10st. 12lb.....	2
Mr. Trio's Carabineer, 11st. 11b.....	3

Time, 1 min. 27 3-5 secs.

THIRD DAY, 9th January.

LEDGER CUP; presented; value \$150; 2nd pony \$25; for all China ponies; winners at this meeting of one race 5lbs. extra, of two or more 10lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile.

Mr. Dryasdust's Dandy, 10st. 9lbs.....	} dead heat.
Mr. August's Aristocrat, 11st. 11b.....	
Mr. Barney's Touchstone, 10st. 12lbs.....	2

Time, 2 min. 14 secs.

FORMOSA CUP; presented; value \$..... for all ponies first raced as griffins at Affoy or Foochow; winners at this meeting of one race 7lbs. extra, of two or more races 10lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Thomas' Otto, 10st. 12lbs.....	1
Mr. Boyd's Dundee, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. Bruce's Dainty, 10st. 9bs.....	3

Time, 2 min. 50 secs.

LADIES' PURSE; presented; for all China ponies; to be ridden by residents of Amoy, Foochow or Formosa; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. Once round and a distance.

Mr. Dryasdust's Hard Times, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. Barney's Sassa, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. McThorn's Rover, 10st. 12lbs.....	3

Time, 1 min. 22 2-5 secs.

LOTTERY CUP; value \$100; 2nd pony \$25; for Amoy subscription griffins of this season; winners of a mile and a quarter race or over 5lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile and a half.

Mr. McThorn's Wanderer, 10st. 9lbs.....	1
Mr. Ernest's Thug, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. Bruce's Bumblepuppy, 10st. 12lbs.....	3

Time, 3 min. 30 2-5 secs.

CONSOLATION CUP; value \$100; second pony \$25; for all beaten ponies that have run and not won a race at this meeting; weights as per scale; entrance \$5. One mile.

Mr. MacArthur's Steadfast, 10st. 12lbs.....	1
Mr. Barney's Sassa, 11st. 11b.....	2
Mr. Dubbullew's Common, 11st. 11b.....	3

Time, 2 min. 16 secs.

CHAMPION STAKES; a forced entry of \$10 each for all winners at this meeting except Nil Desperandum Stakes; winners of two races \$15 extra, of more than two races \$30 extra; non-winners excluded; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Dryasdust's Cobweb, 11st. 11b.....	1
Captain Hope's Firefly, 10st. 12lb.....	2
Mr. Boyd's Dunblane, 11st. 11b.....	3

Time, 2 min. 47 secs.

NIL DESPERANDUM STAKES; of \$5 each, with \$50 added; second pony \$25; for all beaten Amoy subscription griffins of this season; weights as per scale. Once round and a distance.

Mr. Ernest's Thug, 11st. 11b.....	1
Mr. Fiver's Flimsy, 10st. 12lbs.....	2
Mr. Waffle's Frivolity, 10st. 12lb.....	3

Time, 1 min. 37 2-5 secs.

The financial reform party is said to have decided against voting the desired appropriation for expenditure on the Yokohama harbour works in the next financial year.

THE "OBERON" SEARCHED BY CHINESE.

The British steamer *Oberon*, Captain Blacke, which arrived at Yokohama on Thursday, 27th ult., from Middlesborough with a general cargo consigned to Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., was searched by Chinese upon leaving Hongkong on the 19th. The vessel left Hongkong at 6.30 a.m. on that day, and two hours later two Chinese torpedo-boats steamed up and signalled, "Stop at once." The ship having heaved to, one of the torpedo-boats signalled, "Where bound?" In the *Oberon's* book of signals there was no signal for "Yokohama," and no reply could therefore be given to the query. The torpedo-boats then came alongside, and told the *Oberon* to steam to Mira Bay. The sea was at the time too rough for the officers on the torpedo-boats to board the ship. The vessel proceeded to Mira Bay, with one of the torpedo-boats ahead and the other at her stern, and three gun-bats in close attendance. At 11.30 the *Oberon* arrived at Mira Bay and anchored. She was boarded by eight Chinese officers, two foreign officials (both Germans), and a party of marines. The officers demanded to search the ship for contraband of war. Capt. Blacke allowed them to make the search, indeed he had no alternative; and a quantity of the cargo in the holds was overhauled. The search occupied two hours, but no contraband being discovered the Chinese officers stated that they had made a mistake. They also stated that they were after the *Metapedia*, that they sighted and followed her a few days previously, but lost her in a typhoon. At 1.35 p.m. the officers and marines left the ship and the *Oberon* proceeded on her way to Yokohama. The *Metapedia*, it may be stated, has arrived in port and is discharging her cargo at Yokosuka.—*Japan Gazette*.

THE RECALL OF M. DE LANESSAN.

The recall of M. de Lanessan seems to have fallen on Tonkin like a thunderbolt. The first news of it was received in a Havas telegram of the 30th ult. which stated that the Council of Ministers had relieved M. de Lanessan of his functions, having received proof that he had communicated to third parties official reports and documents. A later telegram of the same date stated that the most diverse reports were in circulation on the subject. A telegram of the next day reported the *Temps* as saying that the recall did not reflect on M. de Lanessan in his private capacity, and that the policy in Indo-China would remain unchanged. Another telegram of the same date quoted the *Temps* as saying that M. de Lanessan was recalled on account of there having been discovered amongst M. Canivet's papers documents written by M. de Lanessan of which the Government alone should have had any knowledge. M. Canivet was one of the principals in the Paris blackmailing scandal. That M. de Lanessan had communicated despatches to this man would appear to be admitted, for we find a statement in the *Avenir du Tonkin* of what these despatches were, and under the circumstances the information as to their character could only have been acquired by the local press through statements made by the Governor-General himself. One of the documents, it is said, was a despatch in which the Governor-General, almost immediately on his return to Indo-China, reported to the home Government a high official for refusal of duty. The other—(it would seem there were only two)—was a report of no importance in which M. de Lanessan corrected certain errors in a document sent to Paris by M. Chavassieux during M. Lanessan's absence.

The *Avenir* says:—"The communication of these documents was nothing out of the common. Such things have always been done, and a Minister has never been dismissed because he has found it to his interest to communicate to the press documents that might be useful for his defence or justification. As an instance we may note the report made by M. Rousseau, our new Governor-General, on the Panama affair, a report entirely favourable to the enterprise, except on certain points of detail, and which, communicated to the press to prepare a favourable public opinion, allowed the Ministry to authorise the issue of obligations. In the present case nothing is easier than to destroy the evil reasons employed to justify M. de Lanessan's recall. M. de Canivet was on terms of intimacy

with M. Delcassé (the Minister for the Colonies), who has at times been under his orders. What more natural therefore, the custom being conceded, than the communication to the friend of the Minister of a despatch which might serve to justify the latter? The reasons given for the recall are consequently puerile and grotesque. In this affair we see only one thing: the political enemies of M. de Lanessan have frightened the Minister for the Colonies, threatening not to vote his budget if he did not sacrifice our Governor-General. And M. Delcassé, not having the strength or courage to defend his friend at the tribune, has preferred to sacrifice him. But it was necessary to find a motive, and the Canivet papers were just the very thing."

On receipt of the news the Municipal Council of Hanoi met and the Mayor was requested to communicate to M. and Madame Lanessan the profound regret felt by the public at the recall of the Governor-General, which was considered "the greatest catastrophe that could have befallen the colony." Placards were also issued signed by "a group of inhabitants" calling upon their fellow citizens to proceed in a body at a stated time on the 1st inst. to present their New Year's wishes to M. and Madame Lanessan, as an expression of the profound sympathy felt with M. de Lanessan in the injustice to which he had been subjected, and which constituted a disaster for Tonkin.

Both the *Avenir du Tonkin* and the *Courrier d'Haiphong* express regret at the treatment M. de Lanessan has received and consider his recall both an injustice to him personally and a disaster for the colony.

THE REVISED TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Revised Treaty between Japan and the United States, though framed upon the same general lines as the Treaty recently concluded with Great Britain, presents three essential points of difference. The first relates to the time of going into operation. We do not refer, of course, to the typographical error of the American journals in which the text of the Treaty has been published—the error of writing "1895" instead of "1899." The latter, not the former, is the date really fixed, as every intelligent reader must have perceived. What we refer to is the fact that whereas the date indicated by the British Treaty is conditional, that indicated by the American Treaty is definitive. To understand this difference it is necessary to recall the facts, first, that the operation of the British Treaty must be preceded by a year's notice of the Japanese Government's wish to have it put into force, and, secondly, that the Japanese Government, in a Diplomatic Note accompanying the Treaty undertakes not to give that notice until the portion of the Empire's Codes now in abeyance shall have become operative. Hence the period indicated in the British Treaty is, in truth, nothing more than an inferior limit: at least five years must elapse before the Treaty goes into force, but if the Codes have not become fully operative within five years, then the operation of the Treaty must be deferred accordingly. The American negotiators, on the other hand, have dispensed altogether with the Diplomatic Note, and have unconditionally fixed July 16th, 1899, as the date of the Treaty's operation. It is an evidence of confidence in Japan's purpose. Speaking practically, very little is involved. The steady and unflinching progress made by this country since the Restoration affords the best possible guarantee that there will be no frivolous delay about a question of such vital importance as the final revision of the remaining portions of the Civil and Commercial Codes, and, moreover, the conditional clause in the British Treaty must act as an additional spur. Thus the risk incurred by the United States in fixing a definite date is virtually nil, whereas the credit attaching to such a display of trustfulness will be considerable.

The second difference between the Treaties is in the matter of Tariff. The British Treaty provides that import duties shall be regulated by a Conventional Tariff to remain in force for at least 15 years after the date of the Treaty's taking effect. In other words, import duties are to be levied in accordance with a schedule mutually agreed upon by the High Contract-

ing Parties. The American Treaty contains no such stipulation. It leaves the Japanese free to fix import duties by a General Statutory Tariff. Stated differently, the United States recognises Japan's Tariff autonomy a month after the ratification of the Treaty. Great Britain recognises it not sooner than July 16th, 1911. Here again we have a difference important in appearance, but of no serious consequence. In point of fact, the most-favoured nation clause protects articles of American production or manufacture against the imposition of any duty higher than those fixed by the Conventions. Tariff between Japan and Great Britain America consequently incurs no risk by this act of generosity. We do not desire to depreciate in any degree the good will shown by her negotiators, but it is only fair to point out that citizens of the United States derive precisely the same benefits as British subjects from the conditions that the latter's Government deemed it advisable to insert.

The third difference between the Treaties is found in the last clause of the second article of the American document, where it is provided that "the stipulations contained in this and the preceding article do not in any way affect the laws, ordinances, and regulations with regard to trade, immigration of labourers, police, and public security which are in force, or which may hereafter be enacted, in either of the two countries." The object of this proviso is plain. The United States reserve the right of forbidding the immigration of Japanese labourers, just as she forbids the immigration of Chinese. Japan, of course, possessing corresponding right with respect to American labourers. It was never supposed that the United States would give a conventional pledge to permit the unrestricted ingress of Japanese labourers. That is not her policy. She is open to much theoretical reproach on account of her general attitude toward Oriental labour, but it must be presumed that she knows what she wants and what she does not want a good deal better than other folks know it.

As for the drafting of the American Treaty, it seems to us better than that of the British. Perhaps some improvement in that respect might have been reasonably expected.—*Japan Mail*.

OUTRAGE ON FRENCH TRAVELLERS IN THIBET.

The Eastern Shansi correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on the 10th December, gives the following narrative of an outrage on French travellers in Thibet:—

Some of our neighbours brought us the exciting news the other day that there was a foreign prisoner in an inn close by. He was being sent, they said, to Peking to be dealt with. He was not Japanese, but our informants had a strong suspicion, from what they gathered from his escort, that he must have some connection with Japan and the present war. We hastened along to see this reputed foreign prisoner and to try and ascertain the nature of his crime. People are apt not to be over observant of the rules of etiquette when making calls under such excitement as a foreign prisoner in inland China brings. We intruded ourselves rather abruptly, and we fear rather unceremoniously upon M. Grenard, whom the gentleman in question turned out to be. Our interview was but a short one, for M. Grenard having lunched was just about to continue his journey when we called. He let his baggage go on ahead and himself kindly tarried behind a little to tell us what in the time he could of his sad story. He left France in company with M. Dutreuil de Phins on a scientific mission to Thibet some four years ago. They reached Thibet via Russia, through Russian Turkestan and Chinese Turkestan. They ascended the Thibetan heights to an altitude of over twenty thousand feet, and made some valuable astronomical observations. All went well, and they encountered no more serious opposition than threats until they got into the neighbourhood of Lhasa. Here, as elsewhere, they were threatened, but as nothing had come of the former threats and as they were duly armed with Chinese passports, no danger was anticipated. They were allowed to enter Lhasa, and it was on their way from that city that the gravity of their situation became manifest. They were met in a narrow dale by an armed party, who ordered them to dismount their horses, at the same time

opening fire upon them from under cover. They were not prepared for such a contingency, and after the little ammunition they carried on their persons was exhausted they were entirely at the mercy of their assailants.

M. de Phins was seriously wounded in the abdomen. Early in the skirmish M. Grenard managed to make his escape to a lamassary, the inmates of which showed him kindness and gave him food. Anxious about his companion he tried to make his way back to the scene of the outrage, but in this he was prevented and told that his companion was dead and already thrown into a pit. He made his way to Shening, in Kansuh, and afterwards to Lanchow, the capital of that province, and at these places had a good deal of parleying with the officials over the affair, with, we fear, but little satisfaction. He is now on his way to acquaint the French Minister at Peking of the facts. The circumstances attending this murder seem to point very conclusively to its being another of the officially ordered murders. When the whole story becomes known, it will, we think, be found to resemble in some respects the treacherous Margary murder. The Chinese government can issue passports, yes, and proclamations in favour of foreigners *ad infinitum*, all of which argue very plausibly of their good intention to protect; but more often than otherwise they are bogus, and not worth the paper upon which they are written.

It is now becoming only too palpable that the very office which issues those passports and proclamations may be the very office from which the command is issued to assassinate those in whose favour they are given. What foreigners in China want is to be protected against the Chinese government and its officials and not against the people, who are friendly enough until incited, often with a great deal of trouble, by the former. M. Grenard said they had no trouble from the people, with whom they got on very well; their difficulties were with the officials only.

Our informants were not entirely wrong when they told us that the foreigner was a prisoner. Whether M. Grenard was aware of it we do not know, but he was being escorted as a prisoner, and in the eyes of the Chinese was really a prisoner. There was a small functionary in charge of his escort, who carried an official document, partaking somewhat of the nature of a "warrant" on which his charge's name was written, Li Moteh; described as a rebel officer. To give him the rank of officer would account for his not being in chains which otherwise would be difficult to explain to the people. This is adding insult to injury in a very barefaced manner, and we daresay the French Minister will not lightly overlook it.

The foregoing does not point to much change in the policy at Peking towards foreigners, notwithstanding proclamations and assurances. Not even in their extremity will the Chinese abandon their pet habit of heaping all the indignity possible on foreigners and bringing them into contempt before their people. Allowing that the influence of the war had not reached regions so remote as Lhasa at the time of the outrage, that cannot be said of Shansi, through which M. Grenard is being paraded before the public as a prisoner, for the crime of not being loyal to the Chinese throne. It is a clear proof that China is China still, and we trust the fact will not be out of sight of.

THE FLOATING OF THE "CHEN-YUEN."

A correspondent from Chefoo sends to the *Mercury* the following particulars relating to the floating of the Chinese cruiser *Chenyuen*:—

It will be remembered that some weeks ago the *Chenyuen* struck a sunken rock, which so injured the vessel as to disable her from being of any use until the damage was repaired. As soon as the damage was known, a telegram was sent off to Shanghai to order two Customs divers Mr. Wilson and Mr. Paine, to proceed to Weihaiwei immediately. The two divers accordingly left, arriving at Chefoo about the end of December, from whence they proceeded overland to Weihaiwei. On arriving at Weihaiwei the divers at once set to work and examined the damage done to the *Chenyuen*. It was found that the outer bottom was pierced in several places. Fortunately there were two bottoms to the vessel and the inner bottom being undamaged

enabled the *Chenyuen* to keep afloat. The weather was exceedingly cold and the two divers had to repair the damage under water, and it is said that whilst working under water they were nearly paralysed with the cold. They managed to fix a sheet of iron over the damaged part, and otherwise repair the holes in such a satisfactory manner that the *Chenyuen* is now in thorough order and does not leak at all. Before they left one of the heavy guns was fired on board the *Chenyuen* to see if the vibration would have any effect, but the repairs stood the test thoroughly, and the *Chenyuen* is now in trim to take an active part in fighting with the other Chinese vessels when required. The work reflects great credit on the divers and the Chinese authorities are greatly pleased with them.

ADMIRAL TING.

Admiral Ting is an amiable and a brave man, but he lacked the advantage of a scientific professional education. He was put in charge of the Navy when there was no educated officer yet available—the time when ship's compradores and pilots became commanders of Government ships. Admiral Ting has had many difficulties to contend with in trying to please the various literary officials with whom he had to deal, and in commanding professionals who knew more than he did. The Foochow captains, who, for their own ends, conspired against Captain Lang and managed to force the hand of both Admiral Ting and the Viceroy Li, have never been loyal to the Admiral. With their technical knowledge they were always able to thwart his plans; whatever he ordered they were ready to prove by logarithms to be impossible, and so the fleet has been kept in a state of paralysis all the time. There was a triumvirate who led the silent meeting. Two of them have gone. One was executed, most grossly, for resolute and indefatigable cowardice, ready to be repeated at every opportunity. The second ended his own life. The third, and worst, remains, and if the Admiral is removed will be of necessity in command of the fleet. A worse calamity could not befall the Navy, for this commodore is a second Nelson. He has a blind eye, which he keeps ready to spy out the enemy and for similar services. There are many anecdotes of the bravery and loyalty of this officer, and if he be a good judge then never was such a daring strategist afloat. The Foochow men resent the fate of Captain Fong, not because he did not deserve it, for the commodore, after his death, declared he had been well served, but because he was a Foochow man. It is clear before everything. So now that the Imperial honours are being distributed they think that Ting, who is not a Foochow man—which is entirely his fault—ought to come in for a share of them. Hence the amiable comrades have taken means to apprise the Censors of the merits of the Admiral, on the strength of which he is summoned to Peking. Will he go? A very interesting question.

In another issue the *Mercury*, from which we quote the above, says:—

Prince Kung has acted most sensibly and promptly in the matter of Admiral Ting, who is to continue "as you were." This pleases everybody, even those who have been supposed to bear no good will to the Admiral. The stand made by the Foreigners in the fleet was too much for them.

ACCIDENT TO THE P. M. STEAMER "CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO."

New has been received of an accident to the P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*. The vessel left Yokohama on the 4th inst. for Nagasaki, en route to Hongkong, and at 1.40 p.m. on the 6th inst., the day being fine and clear, while pursuing a course she had frequently taken before, about two miles off Cape Mono, she grazed an unknown rock that tore a hole forwards about eighteen feet long by four feet wide. As soon as it was seen the bulkheads would hold, her head was turned for the shore. There was no beach in the neighbourhood, but her head was put on some boulders where she was sheltered from the waves, and the rent was patched up with mattresses, etc., sufficiently to protect her from any ordinary danger. Nagasaki was then communicated with and assistance sent for, which arrived in due time, and with its aid the ship was moved to a sandy cove,

where she was perfectly protected against any contingency that might arise and where she could be worked on with comparative comfort. The passengers and mail were transferred to the tug and were carried on to Nagasaki, and the *Bio* herself arrived at that port on the 14th inst.

HONGKONG.

The annual mobilisation of the Garrison commenced on Tuesday. Further correspondence has taken place between the Chamber of Commerce and the Government with reference to the exemption of mail steamers from the operation of the Sunday Cargo Working Ordinance. On the 9th inst., in the Supreme Court, two of the men concerned in the recent armed raid in Winglok Street were convicted of murder and sentenced to death; three others were found not guilty. A number of claims by property-owners have been settled by the Taipingshan Arbitration Board. On Saturday night a fire occurred at the *China Mail* office which did considerable damage. A report by Surgeon-Major Westcott on the alleged existence of plague in the Tung Kun district of the Kwangtung Province has been published, from which it appears that there have been sporadic cases of the disease, but that it does not exist in epidemic form. The annual meeting of the Panjom Mining Co., Limited, was held on Monday, at which a vote of want of confidence in the directors was passed and a motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was negatived; a poll was demanded and will be taken on Monday next.

There were 1,581 visitors to the City Hall, Museum last week, of whom 127 were Europeans.

The British cruiser *Mercury*, after a short stay here, will proceed to Singapore, where she will be stationed for two months, relieving the *Swift*.

The *China and Manila Company's* steamer *Zafro*, which has been undergoing repair and alteration at the Kowloon Docks, made a successful trial trip on Saturday.

The performances of "Robinson Crusoe" by the Amateur Dramatic Club are advertised. There are eight performances fixed, the first of which is to take place on the 30th inst.

The stamp revenue last year amounted to \$188,240, being an increase on the amount collected in 1893 of \$26,976. The increase is more than accounted for by probate duty, which shows an increase of \$27,731.

The new flagstaff at the Peak has now been completed and was used for signalling on Saturday. It is a tall and handsome one, but seems likely to suffer in any severe blow unless the topmast is quickly lowered.

On Tuesday morning about nine o'clock the troops began to assemble on the Parade Ground to take part in the mobilisation. The Rifle Brigade, the Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery, and local Artillery mustered strongly, all in heavy marching order, and having formed into detachments left for the various stations assigned them. The mobilisation will last four days, we understand.

Says "Daybreak" in the *N. C. Daily News*:—"I must say I was more than surprised the other day at the action of a gentleman who persisted in riding over the golf ground. Ignorance might have been the reason, but upon being politely told of the fault he was committing, his reply was anything but what it should have been, and he still continued to select a golf link as his base of operations. In addition, a native policeman stationed for the purpose of protecting the ground in question he deliberately tried to ride down. It would have been amusing, as well as within the letter of the law, if the Boss Bobby of Hongkong, for he it was who was the offender, had been taken to the mansion here that does duty for the 'Queen's Hotel' at home. However, I hear that the proper authorities have written a letter to the gentleman and, no doubt, an apology will be forthcoming. Still it is very lucky that our most ardent golfers were not on the ground at the time, otherwise I might have had to write the words that 'St. Ninian' used in his golf report in your issue of 5th inst.: 'I heeled him; I toed him; I fookled him, and I pulled him.' They may be golf expressions, but they would have come in very handy." This may be all very true, but on the whole it seems easier to believe that "Daybreak" has been "piling it on" than that Mr. May should have acted in the way described.

The block of property in Queen's Road East in which Mrs. Stainfield's boarding house is situated, which was purchased by the War Department in the early part of last year, has now been taken over by the military and is to be converted into barracks and stores. Fletcher Street is now the only remaining privately owned property in the military cantonment.

We note that a commencement is being made to protect the dangerous places on the Magazine Gap Road. An iron railing is about to be placed round the curve the other side of the bridge over the ravine about half-way up the hill. This is a much needed protection for pedestrians, especially at night, as they are very liable to step off the road with the probability of a broken leg or neck. There are two or three other points on the same road where similar protection is most desirable.

On Thursday evening Mr. Sangster favoured us with another of his delightful organ recitals and the selections of the programme were meditative, soulful, and rich in beautiful modulations. Choice gems from the greatest poets of the world of music were tastefully, feelingly, and artistically rendered, and the comparisons between the oriental Gounod, the scholarly Bach, the idealist Wagner, the tenderly and Beethoven, the romantic Schubert, and the stately Haydn were certainly varied enough for one evening.

There was a well attended meeting of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders on Thursday night, at which an interesting paper was read by Mr. W. G. Winterburn on "The screw propeller." Mr. Winterburn reviewed the principal questions that arise in the construction and use of propellers and offered some suggestions of his own. A discussion followed, in the course of which several amusing incidents in connection with the replacing of damaged propellers were mentioned. At the close a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Winterburn for his excellent paper.

In issuing dog licences the Police describe on the licence form the breed of the dog. This appears a work of supererogation and at times may entail unnecessary correspondence with the owners. It is the owner, not the dog, that is licensed, and the same licensee would cover a dog of any description; that is to say, if a person licensed to keep a dog kept at one period of the year a fox terrier and having given it away or otherwise disposed of it, subsequently kept a Newfoundland, the same licence that he had for the former would also cover the latter; but the description would be wrong.

The death rate last month, according to the Sanitary Board's returns, was for the British and Foreign community (civil population) 33.03 and for the Chinese population 18.04. According to the Registrar-General's returns the death rate for the quarter ending the 31st December last was for the British and Foreign community 22.26 and for the Chinese 19.81. The birth rate was 22.63 and 5.70 respectively. The births amongst the British and Foreign community consisted of 40 boys and 21 girls. Not long ago the balance of the sexes was the other way, the girls outnumbering the boys.

The installation meeting of the United Service Lodge, No. 1,341, took place on Tuesday evening, when Bro. Spafford was installed as Worshipful Master. Wor. Bro. Spafford afterwards invested his officers as follows:—I.P.M., Wor. Bro. H. J. Watson; S.W., Bro. G. Moffatt; J.W., Bro. H. E. A. Hoile; Treasurer, Bro. F. Howell; Secretary, Wor. Bro. C. W. Duggan; Chaplain, Bro. St. Aidan Baylee; S.D., Bro. G. Gordon; J.D., Bro. H. E. Smith; Organist, Bro. J. E. Chaudet; Dir. of Cer., Bro. J. B. Craik; I.G., Bro. F. T. Addyman; Steward, Bro. A. W. Weston; Tyler, Bro. J. Maxwell.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral is having quite extensive repairs and additions made to it and in a few weeks more the unsightly scaffolding that disfigures it will be pulled down and the spire will again stand uncovered. The white ants, it seems, had attacked the spire, which was beginning to crumble under their years' of occupation, and all the old matter has been taken out and is now replaced with new and better material that ought to stand for many years to come. Internally, galleries will be extended some thirteen feet, and the choir will then have abundant room. The roof has also now been finished. There will also in due time be other and greater changes in the continuation of the bell tower and in other improvements.

At the half-yearly meeting of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, held on Tuesday evening, Captain Tillett resigned the Presidency and Captain Harris, of the Douglas steamer *Namoa*, was elected to succeed him.

Rear-Admiral de Beaumont, recently appointed to the command of the French Naval Division in the Far East, arrived by the M. M. steamer *Melbourne* on Friday and proceeds to Japan, where he will hoist his flag on the *Bayard*.

We are advised by the Secretary of the Fung-jom Mining Co., Limited, of the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Blamey reading:—"During the month of December the mill ran 26 days, crushing 800 tons yielding 365 ounces of gold and headings 300 tons for 45 ounces gold."

On Saturday morning, at No. 9 Station, Chief Inspector Mathieson, on behalf of the European members of the Police Force, presented Mrs. Fyfe, who arrived recently from England, with a silver tea service. Constable Fyfe thankfully acknowledged the kind gift to his bride.

Mr. Gueyraud, lately French Consul at Hongkong, now on leave, does not return, having been appointed Consul at Bilbao. His successor is M. L. G. Leroux, who is expected to arrive by the next French mail. M. H. S. Bourgeois, who has been Acting Consul for the last year, will continue to fill the office of Vice-Consul.

The inquiry into the cause of the death of the artilleryman whose body was recently found in the harbour resulted in a verdict of found drowned. When last seen alive the deceased was getting into a small dinghy at Stonecutters to cross to Hongkong. The dinghy has not been found.

An Inter-Club match in connection with the Hongkong Football Club was brought off on Thursday afternoon. Teams were captained by Mr. Firth and by Mr. Crook. When time was called each side had obtained one goal. Time was extended for a quarter of an hour, during which Firth's team scored another point. The play was of considerable interest, some of the more recent members displaying promise of becoming skilful players, a number of whom is so necessary for the prosperity of a Football Club.

On Friday afternoon Mr. J. M. Armstrong submitted to auction a leasehold property in two lots situate in Lascar Row and consisting of Nos. 36, 37, and 40 Lower Lascar Row and Nos. 35, 37, and 39 Upper Lascar Row. The two lots were put up together, and after some spirited bidding were knocked down to Mr. Lai Chuk for \$12,000. The combined area of the two lots is 2,627 square feet, and the price realised gives a value, including the buildings, of \$4.56 per square foot.

COMMERCIAL. TEA.

CANTON, 15th January.—Tea.—Several small parcels of Macao Congous have changed hands at various prices ruling in buyer's favour up to Tls. 36 per picul, amounting in all to 1,700 Boxes. These have all gone forward, and the market is now closed.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Yokohama.....	28,078,376	27,285,240
Kobe.....	16,253,648	16,480,793
	44,332,024	43,766,033

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton and Macao.....	7,553,372	8,174,594
Amoy.....	740,767	699,647
Foochow.....	13,777,348	21,139,586
Shanghai and Hankow.....	21,591,498	24,872,629
	43,662,985	54,886,396

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Canton.....	2,667,200	1,109,192
Amoy.....	16,894,081	16,875,458
Foochow.....	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai.....	25,783,527	23,749,507
	53,485,327	47,617,278

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95 lbs.	1893-94 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai.....	22,555,223	21,619,462

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 11th January.—(From Messrs. Cromie & Burkill's circular.)—London telegrams dated 8th current report the market "quiet." Gold Kilings are quoted 7/3. Raw Silk.—A very considerable business developed directly after the departure of last mail, and settlements since then reach about 2,500 bales. Holders have pushed the prices up and to-day's quotations are Tls. 5 to 7 1/4 higher than last week. The market is strong. Tsatlees.—Are in good demand at the advance, and some holders seem inclined to keep back their stocks, as they expect to see a further rise in prices. Gold Lions have been settled at Tls. 345 and Gold Kilings at Tls. 322 1/2. Taysaams.—Are only in small request, prices remain steady. Yellow Silk.—Has participated in the movement, and buyers for Asiatic markets principally have operated freely. Prices for Foo-yangs, Wangchows and Mienyangs remain fairly steady, whereas Mingchows show a considerable decline owing to some of the holders being anxious to realise before Chinese New Year. Arrivals, as per Customs returns, from the 3rd to the 9th January, amount to 701 bales of White and 133 bales of Yellow and 85 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No business reported in Re-reels. Ordinary Filatures were settled at Tls. 435 for market chops and Tls. 420 for Fan chop II. Wild Silk.—Small transactions at quotations. Waste Silk.—No business reported. Pongees.—2,000 pieces White Shanghai Cloths were contracted for at Tls. 16.15 per piece for 21/22 in, by 70 yards by 60 oz. and at Tls. 5.50 per piece for 14 in. by 35 yards by 23 oz. and containing 6 per cent. Congee.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Blue Elephant at Tls. 397 1/2 per picul, Mountain 3 at Tls. 390, ditto 4 Tls. 357 1/2, Gold Lion at Tls. 345, Gold Killing at Tls. 320 to Tls. 322 1/2, Chay Killing at Tls. 280, Silver Double Elephant at Tls. 320 to Tls. 322 1/2, Blue Double Elephant at Tls. 305, Hangchow Tsatlees.—Lanhook at Tls. 306 1/2, Lanping at Tls. 283 1/2, Pagoda Tinchow at Tls. 305, ditto. Neor Tls. 282 1/2. Taysaam.—White Kahing Lily Flower Neor at Tls. 335, Green Kahing Gold Goose 2 at Tls. 320, ditto. Green Almond Flower 1 at Tls. 300, 9/12 Moss, Green Horse 3 at Tls. 315. Skeins.—Chingyang Market No. 1 at Tls. 222 1/2, ditto. No. 2 at Tls. 210. Yellow Silk.—Shantung Skeins Blue Stork at Tls. 245, Mienchew at Tls. 225 to Tls. 255, Kopun at Tls. 225 to Tls. 230. Meeyang at Tls. 190 to Tls. 205, Szechong at Tls. 165 to Tls. 167 1/2. China Filatures.—Market chop at Tls. 435. Wild Silk.—Tussah Raw at Tls. 147 1/2 to Tls. 160.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton.....	6,056	2,074
Shanghai.....	6,085	1,292
Yokohama.....	20,190	9,327
	32,331	12,694

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95 bales.	1893-94 bales.
Canton.....	10,008	12,757
Shanghai.....	35,129	36,714
Yokohama.....	13,680	15,291
Total to date.....	58,817	64,762

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Business continues dull and prices are lower. Quotations for Formosa are \$37.50 to \$38.00.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—There is still an absence of demand and prices have further declined. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.57 to 7.60 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.96 to 7.00 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.85 to 4.88 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.67 to 4.70 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.44 to 7.48 "
do. " 2, White...	6.85 to 6.90 "
do. " 1, Brown...	4.56 to 4.60 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.38 to 4.40 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	11.05 to 11.00 "
Shekloong ".....	9.90 to 10.00 "

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Bengal.—There has been a falling off in the demand during the past week and prices have in consequence given way.

New Patna is quoted at the close at \$866, and New Benares at \$850.

Malwa.—The market has undergone a further advance, the following being the latest figures:—
New.....\$710, with allowance from 0 to 2 1/2 cts.
Old (2 to 3 yrs.) \$720 " 0 to 1 "
" (4 to 5 yrs.) \$730 " 0 to 1 "
" (6 to 8 yrs.) \$740 " 0 to 1 "

Persian.—A further improvement has taken place in the rates for this drug. Paper-wrapped descriptions close at \$740 to \$800 and Oily at \$700 to \$720 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.....	2,500 chests.
" Benares.....	1,860 "
Malwa.....	1,160 "
Persian.....	1,220 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 10	872 1/2	—	852 1/2	—	710	720/740
Jan. 11	872 1/2	—	852 1/2	—	710	720/740
Jan. 12	872 1/2	—	850	—	710	720/740
Jan. 13	870	—	850	—	710	720/740
Jan. 14	870	—	852 1/2	—	710	720/740
Jan. 15	865	—	852 1/2	—	710	720/740
Jan. 16	860	—	850	—	710	720/740

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 1st January.—Market remains without improvement. Stocks: 1,534 bales Bengal; 300 bales Kurrachee; 277 bales Rangoon, and about 1,500 bales China Cotton.

Bombay.....\$12.00 to 14.50 p. picul.

Kurrachee.....12.00 to 14.50 "

Bengal, Rangoon, and } 12.00 to 14.50 "

Dacca,.....} 12.00 to 14.50 "

Shanghai and Japanese.. 16.00 to 16.75 "

Tungchow and Ningpo.. 16.00 to 16.75 "

Madras.....14.00 to 15.00 "

Sales: 51 bales Bombay, 500 bales Shanghai and Japanese, Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Large arrivals continue, with an absence of demand, and the market is weak. Closing quotations, are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$1.94 to 1.96 per picul
" Round, good quality.....	2.20 to 2.23 "
" Long.....	2.32 to 2.34 "
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2.....	1.97 to 2.00 "
" Garden, " No. 1.....	2.37 to 2.40 "
Siam White.....	2.78 to 2.81 "
" Fine Cargo.....	3.05 to 3.10 "

COALS.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—No change and very little business doing. Quotations are:—

Cardiff.....	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian.....	9.50 to 10.00 ex ship, sellers.
Milke Lump.....	7.25 to 7.50 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small.....	6.25 to 6.50 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump.....	6.50 to 7.00 ex ship, steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS:—English Yarn.—20 bales No. 30 Black Eagle at \$109, 50 bales No. 40 Horse at \$107, and 50 bales No. 22/24 Green Dragon at \$102. Bombay Yarns.—25 bales No. 8 at \$63, 605 bales No. 10 at \$67 to \$74, 640 bales No. 12 at \$67 1/2 to \$73 1/2, 60 bales No. 16 at \$75 to \$80, and 455 bales No. 20 at \$79 to \$83. White Shirtings.—300 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.40, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.55, 300 pieces E. F. at \$6.30, 500 pieces Peacock at \$3.32 1/2, 2,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.32 1/2, 1,000 pieces 600 chop at \$4.05, 500 pieces 5 chop at \$3.57 1/2, 250 pieces X 6 at \$3.62, 500 pieces No. 3 at \$3.35, 1,000 pieces O. at \$4 to \$4.02 1/2, 1,000 pieces Red Dragon 48 reed at \$2.10, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.60, 250 pieces SS at \$4.25, and 500 pieces X 7 at \$3.90. White Irish Folds.—750 pieces No. 1 at \$4.52 1/2. Grey Shirtings.—8 1/2 lbs.—600 pieces Red Cock at \$2.40, 600 pieces Blue Cock at \$2.50, 900 pieces Blue Fish at \$2.40, 300 pieces Red Joss at \$2.67 1/2, 1,500 pieces Blue 7 Boys at \$2.67 1/2, and 500 pieces at \$2.50. 10 lbs.—1,000 pieces Vase at \$3.60 to \$3.65, 1,500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$3.67 1/2 to \$3.60, 500 pieces Blue 5 Men at \$3.60, 500 pieces Red 5 Men at \$3.16, 1,250 pieces Palm at \$3.80, 250 pieces Sycee at \$3.60. T-Cloths, Bombay.—500 pieces 6 lbs. at \$1.65. T-Cloths, Mexican.—6 lbs.—500 pieces Red Dragon at \$1.64, 7 lbs.—750 pieces 4 Stags at \$2.12 1/2, 375 pieces Silver Joss at \$1.95, 375 pieces Silver Dragon at \$2.05, 375 pieces Dragon B.B. at \$2.17 1/2, 1,875 pieces Red Stag at \$2.17 1/2. 8 lbs.—600 pieces Gold Dragon

at \$2.52. Camlets.—100 pieces 8 Fairies Assorted at \$17.50; 100 pieces 7 Women and Baby at \$16.50. 50 pieces Indigo Old Men at \$17.80, 100 pieces 9 Old Men Assorted at \$16.75. Long Eils.—200 pieces 9 lbs. 8 Assorted at \$8.90. Meras.—Iron.—1,000 bundles Hoop at \$4.60. 500 bundles 8 small Round Rods Bamboo at \$4.30. Lead.—1,430 pieces Australian at \$6.50. Quick-silver.—100 flasks at \$116 to \$116.75.

COTTON YARN. per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20 \$62.00 to \$87.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24 96.00 to 100.00
" 22 to 24 99.00 to 103.00
" 28 to 32 108.00 to 114.00
" 38 to 42 115.00 to 122.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece
Gray Shirtings—6lbs. 1.40 to 1.50
" 7lbs. 1.85 to 2.05
" 8.4 lbs. 2.40 to 3.10
" 9 to 10 lbs. 3.25 to 3.60
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.25 to 2.40
" 58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.20
" 64 to 66 " 3.30 to 3.70
" Fine 3.90 to 6.00
" Book-folds 3.50 to 5.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards 0.60 to 1.35
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.40 to 1.50
" 7lbs. (32 ") " 1.75 to 1.85
" 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.55 to 1.65
" 7lbs. (32 ") " 1.95 to 2.15
" 8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.) 2.10 to 2.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/4 to 4lbs. 3.00 to 4.00

FANCY COTTONS.
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/4 to 5lbs. 1.30 to 2.70
Breccades—Dyed 3.90 to 4.95
Damasks 0.13 to 0.17
Chintzes—Assorted 0.07 to 0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.21 to 0.32
Velveteens—18 in. 0.18 to 0.24

WOOLLENS. per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.55 to 0.90
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 0.85
" German 0.95 to 1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.20 to 2.60
per piece
Lace Eils—Scarlet 6.60 to 7.80
" Assorted 6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted 14.00 to 29.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 13.50 to 21.00

Orleans—Plain 3.70 to 4.90
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 4.50 to 9.00
METALS. per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 3.20 to —
" Square, Flat Round Bar. 3.15 to 3.20
" Swedish Bar 4.35 to —
" Small Round Rod 3.50 to —
" Hoop 4.60 to —
" Old Wire Rope 3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 6.41 to 6.45

Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 25.00 to 25.25
" Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 25.00 to —
" Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 24.75 to —

Japan Copper—Slabs 24.50 to —
" Tiles 24.50 to —
Tin 86.60 to —
Tin-Plates 6.00 to —

Steel 5.50 to —
SUNDRIES. per picul
Quicksilver 116.00 to —
Window Glass 3.20 to —
Kerosene Oil 1.75 to —

SHANGHAI, 10th January.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's Report.)—The enquiry reported last week as prevailing has borne fruit during the interval, with the result that a large business has been done, the dealers meeting the enhanced demands of importers with considerable freedom. This has been brought about, no doubt to a great extent, by the increasing prospects of peace, the lowness of exchange and difficulty of buying in Manchester for delivery within reasonable time making the chance of laying in supplies at all adequate to the demand there will be in the event of an early settlement, very remote. The business has embraced all classes of Manchester makes of cotton goods, American, so far, being almost entirely neglected. A fair number of the sales reported are for prompt cash; but the majority are for delivery after the New Year settling, while particulars of the indent business are mostly withheld altogether. Advice from all the outports continue very favour-

able, Newchwang being the only exception, which is not surprising, that neighbourhood being at present the chief scene of warlike operations. The prompts at all the auctions this week having been extended to permit of delivery being taken on the resumption of business after the native holidays, prices show considerable improvement all round, the most conspicuous being in the case of White Shirtings, which have been selling much below the cost of replacing for some time past.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—11th January:—Business during the week has been seasonably quiet. Natives are busy settling up yearly accounts, and but few fresh transactions are gone in for now. There has been a small business doing in spot L.B. Lead, at Tls. 5.35 to 5.40, and a few parcels of Iron have been taken up for the ports at previous rates, but altogether business in Metals remained almost at a standstill. Rumours or orders being booked for Redcar Pig Iron, Scotch Nailrods, and some other items lack confirmation and will be reported on by next mail.

WEDNESDAY, 16th January. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—
Telegraphic Transfer 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight —
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/0 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0 1/2
ON PARIS.—
Bank Bills, on demand 2.48
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.53
ON GERMANY.—
On demand 2.00
ON NEW YORK.—
Bank Bills, on demand 48
Credits, 60 days' sight 49 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—
Telegraphic Transfer 188 1/2
Bank, on demand 189
ON CALCUTTA.—
Telegraphic Transfer 188 1/2
Bank, on demand 189
ON SHANGHAI.—
Bank, at sight 72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight 73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—
On demand 1/2 % dis.
ON MANILA.—
On demand 15 % pm., nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—
On demand 1 % dis.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 9 95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 51

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 16th January.—The chief feature of the market in the week under review is the hardening of rates in nearly all the chief stocks and the more healthy tone of the market. Business has been brisk and a fair number of shares have changed hands in the leading stocks. The market again closes with an upward tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have further boomed to 125 per cent. prem.; with sales at 115, 118, 120, 121, 123, and 125 per cent. prem.; market closes steady, but shares can be obtained at the latter rate. Other Bank stock continues neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been in demand and sales have been effected at \$60, buyers ruling the market at that rate. We have no business to report in other Marine stock, but Unions are in demand at \$125 without finding sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Small sales of Hongkongs at \$180 and Chinas at \$75 1/2 is all we have to report.

SHIPPING.—We have no sales to report, but market for Douglas's and Hongkong, Canton, and Macao's rules firm with buyers at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further improved their position with sales at \$145, \$150, \$152 1/2, and \$154, closing firm at latter rate. Luxons continue neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms, with results of last month's crushing unfavourably received, have fallen to \$6 1/2, after sales at \$7.50, \$7.25, and \$7; market closes weak with sellers. Charbonnages are weaker with sellers at quotation and probably at a point or two lower. Raubs have found buyers at \$4 and \$4.25, closing firm at latter rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Docks have changed hands at 81, 81 1/2, and 82 per cent. prem. closing firm with every indication of a rise. Lands continue

to find investing buyers at \$53 and close steady. Green Islands have jumped to \$6 with sales, but sellers at that rate or at even at a point lower rule the market. Watsons continue weak without sales at \$9.75, but shares could be placed at \$9.50. H. G. Browns after a long period of neglect are enquired for at \$3 1/2 to \$4, but no shares seem to be forthcoming. Kowloon Wharfs have found buyers at \$37 and Kowloon Lands at \$7 and \$7 1/2. West Points have been enquired for at \$15, but this low rate has failed to bring out any sellers.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks.		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	125 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c.	\$25.50	nom. [& buyers
Do., Founders.	\$1	\$5
Nat. Bank of Ch...		
B. Shares.	\$8	\$18 1/2, buyers
Foun. Shares.	\$1	nom.
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$3 1/2, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4, sellers
China Borneo	\$55	nom.
China Sugar	\$100	\$154, sales
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$4 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$15, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$6, sales & sellers
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$4, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$10	\$125
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$4
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$65, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$80
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$87
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$120
H. & W. Dock	\$125	82 p. ct. pm., buyers
Hotels.		
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$9, buyers
Shameen	\$20	\$4
Insurances.		
Canton	\$50	\$155
China Fire	\$20	\$75 1/2, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$180
North-China	\$25	Tls. 200
Straits Marine	\$20	\$23, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$127, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$80, sellers
Land & Building.		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$53, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$7 1/2, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10 1/2
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$15
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$48, sellers
Mining.		
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2.70, sales
Charbonnages	\$131.58	\$80, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$5
Punjom	\$34	\$6, sales & buyers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.90
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$4.25, sales & buyers
Teamship Coys.		
China & Manila	\$50	\$65, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$38, buyers
H., Canton, & M.	\$20	\$26 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$38 1/2
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$4
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 11th January.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were sold on the 7th at 115 per cent. premium. There are buyers at this rate to-day. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were parted with at Tls. 100, and Indo-China S. N. shares changed hands at Tls. 28. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been placed Tls. 120 and Tls. 122 1/2. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance shares were sold, and are offering, at Tls. 202 1/2. Yangtzes were sold to Hongkong at \$80. Straits have been placed at \$24. At a meeting of Shanghai shareholders in this Company, held on the 8th instant, it was unanimously resolved to accept the offer of the Commercial Union Assurance Co., and a Committee was appointed to endeavour to carry this into effect. Cantons have changed hands, in Hongkong, at \$160, ex dividend. Fire Insurance.—There is no business reported. Chinas are wanted at \$75. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 240 cash and at Tls. 250 for delivery on the 15th and 31st March, respectively. They are wanted at the close. Mining.—Sheridan C. Mining shares changed hands, and are wanted, at Tls. 1. Miscellaneous.—The Shanghai Gas Co. paid yesterday a dividend of Tls. 6 for the half-year to 31st December, and Tls. 2.75 as interest on the reserve fund. Shanghai Waterworks shares are wanted at Tls. 165. Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at

Tls. 80, Hall & Holtz shares at \$15, Major Brothers shares at \$25, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 250 for delivery on 15th March, and Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares at Tls. 95. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5½ per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 95, Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures at Tls. 102, and Shanghai-Lankat Debentures at par, plus the accrued interest in all cases. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation—115 per cent. prem.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited. Founders.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—\$31.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—Nom.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100 per sh.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 28 per sh.

China Mutual S. N. Co.—250 per share.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 60 per sh.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$26½ per share.

Deuglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$50 per share.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Tls. 550 per share.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 150 per share.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 122½ per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—81 per cent. premium.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$60 per share.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 202½ share.

Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$127½ per share.

Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$80 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$160 per share.

Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$24 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$175 per sh.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$75 per share.

Straits Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$5½ per share.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 245 per share.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 37 per share.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$97½ per share.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 1 per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$7 per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$2 per share.

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$5 per sh.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$5 per sh.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 147½ per share.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 122½ per sh.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 205 per share.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 165 per sh.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 36 p. sh.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$148 per sh.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$48 per share.

Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$15 per share.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 36 per share.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$54½ p. sh.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$37½ per share.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 33½ per sh.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 245 per sh.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95 per share.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 110 per share.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$10½ per share.

L'Hotel des Colonies—Tls. 20.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.

Lycium Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.

Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 250 (a).

Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 95 (a).

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 95.

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

Hongkong, 16th January.—Since our last report freights have continued dull and the volume of business transacted has been comparatively small.

From Saigon to Hongkong rates have recovered from 15 to 16 cents, at which steamers are wanted to load after the Chinese New Year; a small carrier has managed to obtain 7 cents. To Sourabaya there is an enquiry for middle of February loading, but only 25 cents is offered.

From Bangkok to this one settlement is reported at 18/23 cents per picul, but there is no further demand for prompt loading.

Japan coal freights have further weakened and \$2.50 to Hongkong and \$3.25 to Singapore is the best that can be obtained at present.

Sailing tonnage.—There have been two fixtures hence to New York at about 16s. per ton of 40 cubic

feet, but further vessels for prompt loading are not wanted. For San Francisco a sailer is enquired for at \$2.75 per ton.

There are two vessels disengaged in port, registering 2,539 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Sinram—American ship, 1,590 tons, Hongkong to New York, gold \$11,350 in full.

Lucilla—American ship, 1,329 tons, Hongkong to New York, gold \$9,750 in full.

Kitty—British barque, 803 tons, Mantung to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Stanfield—British barque, 653 tons, one port, Philippines to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Siam—British steamer, 992 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Tritos—German steamer, 1,341 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Orono—British steamer, 1,321 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Jacob Diederichsen—German steamer, 623 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$3,150 in full.

Talies—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$3,400 in full.

Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 885 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 18/23 cents per picul.

Straits of Dover—British steamer, 1,904 tons, Moji to Hongkong (part capacity), \$2.60 per ton.

Loksang—British steamer, 979 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$2.75 per ton.

Frejr—Danish steamer, 398 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$3,150 per month.

Michael Jensen—German steamer, 710 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$5,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Glenfruin (str.), Formosa (str.), Oceanic (str.), Keemun (str.), Bullmouth (str.), Benledi (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Yarra (str.).

For BREMEN.—Darmstadt (str.).

For HAYRE.—Mascotte (str.), Aglaia (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Gaelic (str.), City of Peking (str.).

Sierra Firanda.

For NEW YORK.—Pathan (str.), Glenshiel (str.).

William J. Rotch, Berlin, Lucille.

For AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January—

8, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.

8, Nanchang, British str., from Chinkiang.

9, Hailong, British str., from Coast Ports.

9, Palinurus, British str., from Moji.

9, Swatow, German str., from Haiphong.

9, Tenasserim, British str., from New York.

9, Taisang, British str., from Canton.

9, Ceylon, British str., from London.

9, Paoting, British str., from Chinkiang.

10, Chunshan, British str., from Bangkok.

10, Berchly, British str., from Saigon.

10, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Hoihow.

10, Emeralds, British str., from Manila.

10, Fidelio, German str., from Chinkiang.

10, Lienshing, British str., from Canton.

10, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

10, Woosung, British str., from Canton.

10, Mercury, British cruiser, from a cruise.

10, Presto, German str., from Canton.

10, Nurnberg, German str., from Japan.

10, Yiksang, British str., from Canton.

10, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Canton.

11, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.

11, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.

11, Guy Mannering, British str., from Canton.

11, Centennial, Amr. ship, from Newcastle.

11, M. Bacquehem, Aust. str., from Kobe.

11, Sachem, Amr. ship, from Hyogo.

11, Amigo, German str., from Bangkok.

11, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.

11, Melbourne, French str., from Marseilles.

11, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.

11, Rosetta, British str., from London.

11, Pallas, German str., from Kutchinotsu.

11, Kungping, British str., from Shanghai.

12, Moldava, British str., from Moji.

12, Lifco, German str., from Canton.

12, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.

12, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.

12, Fooksan, British str., from Shanghai.

12, Hupeh, British str., from Sourabaya.

12, Kaifong, British str., from Chinkiang.

12, Parthian, British str., from Saigon.

12, Wosang, British str., from Chinkiang.

13, Bullmouth, British str., from Shanghai.

13, Guthrie, British str., from Australia.

13, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.

13, Marie Valerie, Austrian str., from Trieste.

13, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.

13, Shengyi, German str., from Chinkiang.

13, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.

13, Straits of Menai, British str., from Moji.

13, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.

13, Reina Cristina, Spanish str., from Manila.

13, Pekin, British str., from Amoy.

14, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.

14, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.

14, Kutsang, British str., from Canton.

14, Brunhilde, German str., from Chinkiang.

14, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.

14, Asloun, British str., from Saigon.

14, Erato, German str., from Hamburg.

14, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

14, Frejr, Danish str., from Hoihow.

15, Pekin, British str., from Shanghai.

15, Taicheong, British str., from Swatow.

15, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.

15, Tritos, German str., from Mauritius.

15, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Batoum.

15, Taksang, British str., from Chinkiang.

15, J. Diederichsen, German str., from Iloilo.

16, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.

16, Fokien, British str., from Kobe.

16, Benmohr, British str., from London.

16, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.

16, Glenfruin, British str., from Shanghai.

16, Kungping, British str., from Canton.

16, Soochow, British str., from Canton.

January—

DEPARTURES.

9, Nanchang, British str., for Canton.

9, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.

9, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.

10, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.

10, Donar, German str., for Bangkok.

10, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.

10, Mamnon, British str., for Kudat.

10, Progress, German str., for Saigon.

10, Taiyuan, British str., for Moji.

10, Changsha, British str., for Australia.

10, Fidelio, German str., for Canton.

10, Kwongmo, British str., for Amoy.

10, Paoting, British str., for Canton.

10, Tenasserim, British str., for Shanghai.

10, E. K. Wood, Amr. sch., for S. Francisco.

11, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.

11, Hailoo, g. British str., for Swatow.

11, Lienshing, British str., for Shanghai.

11, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.

11, Teucer, British str., for Amoy.

11, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.

11, Assam, British str., for Yokohama.

11, Losook, British str., for Bangkok.

11, Palinurus, British str., for London.

11, Swatow, German str., for Haiphong.

11, Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.

11, Gera, German str., for Europe.

12, Doris, German str., for Haiphong.

12, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.

12, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.

12, Kungping, British str., for Canton.

12, M. Bacquehem, Aust. str., for Trieste.

12, Melbourne, French str., for Shanghai.

12, Picciola, German str., for Takau.

12, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.

13, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.

13, Boulawers, British str., for Saigon.

13, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.

13, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.

13, Kaifong, British str., for Canton.

13, Lifco, German str., for Shanghai.

13, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.

13, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.

13, Presto, German str., for Honcho Bay.

13, Rosetta, British str., for Shanghai.

13, Tamarind, Norw. str., for Bangkok.

13, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.

13, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

13, Wosang, British str., for Canton.

13, Kitty, British bark, for Quinhon.

13, Redbreast, British g.-bt., for Bangkok.

14, Shengyi, German str., for Canton.

14, Brunhilde, German str., for Canton.

15, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.

15,